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*"DUCIT AMOR PATRIÆ"*

# Niagara Historical Society

NO. 11

## REMINISCENCES OF NIAGARA

REPRINT



# NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Its objects are the encouragement of the study of Canadian History and Literature, the collection and preservation of Canadian Historical Relics, the building up of Canadian loyalty and patriotism and the preservation of all historical landmarks in this vicinity.

The annual fee is fifty cents.

The Society was formed in December, 1895. The annual meeting is held on October 13th. Since May, 1896, six thousand articles have been gathered in the Historical Room—twenty-seven pamphlets have been published, ten historical sites have been marked, an Historical building erected at a cost of over \$5,000, and a catalogue published.

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## REMINISCENCES OF NIAGARA

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## PREFACE

In the present issue of "Reminiscences" an attempt has been made to gather together what some of the oldest inhabitants remember of the early days of Niagara and to cull from early works of travel references to our town. It is extremely to be regretted that so little was committed to paper in those early days or that so few letters or diaries can be found. In the conflagration of Dec. 1813, much valuable material was completely destroyed. It is hoped that some fragments may be yet collected.

The view of the house of Hon. D. W. Smith has been copied by the kind permission of Dr. Bain, of the Toronto Library. The house which was situated in what is now the Court House Square was offered for sale in 1798 for a Grammar School with four acres as an endowment. In 1800 an offer of a reduction in the price was made, but declined ; being opposite Fort Niagara and in range of the guns it was in too exposed a position.

The photograph of Hon. Robert Hamilton was furnished by Judge Hamilton from a miniature in the possession of Clarke Hamilton, Esq., of Kingston. That of Andrew Kemp was sent by his grandson, Mr. D. K. Goodfellow, of Beauharnois, Que., and that of Mrs. Whitten by her daughter, Mrs. Follett, of Niagara, to all of whom hearty thanks are rendered.

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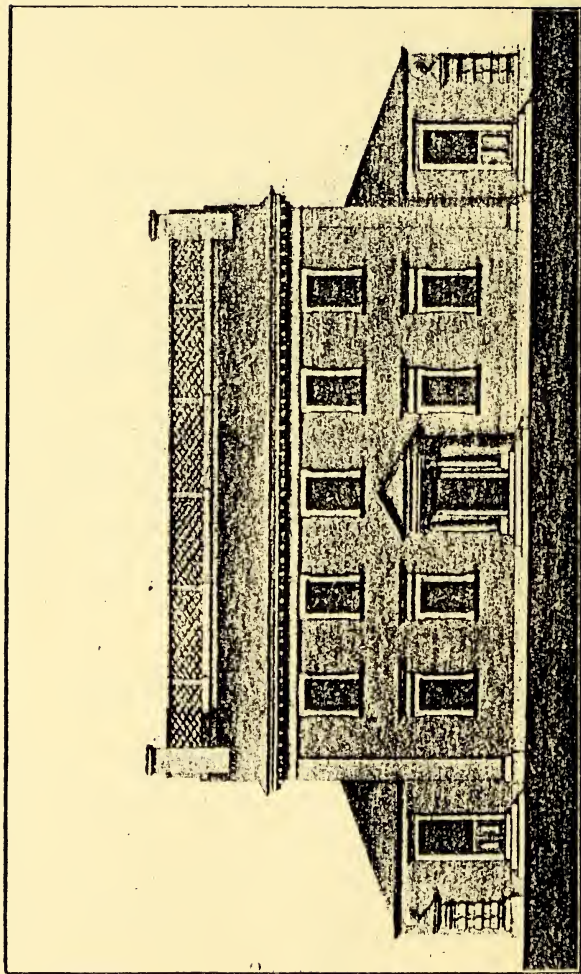
## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

As No. 11 of our publications which has met with much appreciation has been long out of print and has frequently been asked for, it has been thought wise to reprint it. We are glad to be able to announce that another pamphlet also consisting of reminiscences is now being printed and will soon be issued. It will contain what has long been wished for, accounts of some of the earliest settlers in the Niagara peninsula and it is hoped that other descendants of the pioneers will provide the much desired materials, how they came, when they came, where they landed, what were their difficulties, that due honor may be paid to the brave and loyal men and women who laid the foundation of our loved Ontario.

J. C.







House of Hon. D. W. Smith, Dept. Surveyor General

Built about 1793. The first fine house built in Niagara. See page 42.

# ANDREW KEMP

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## RECOLLECTIONS OF A BOY OF 1812

(By *D. K. Goodfellow*)

Andrew Kemp, the son of U. E. Loyalist parents, was born in Niagara in 1800. His father, David Kemp, was a native of New Jersey, and arriving in Canada in 1793, married in 1796, Rebecca Ransier. His wife's people belonged to New York, and had suffered much at the hands of the Revolutionists; Rebecca herself owned a farm which was confiscated with other property of the family. The name of Ransier -- or Ransler (properly speaking it is Rensselaer) is to be seen in the muster rolls of Butler's Rangers, and also in the U.E. List, as that of a member of the celebrated corps.

David Kemp's father and mother were from Scotland, they came from Aberdeen about the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in New Jersey. David (born in 1769) was the second of their three sons, and there were several girls in the family besides.

David and his younger brother were too youthful to bear arms in the Revolutionary struggle, but their father and elder brother were active adherents of the loyalist side. At the Kemp's home, friends of the cause were ever welcome, and in various ways they earned the hatred of their rebel neighbors. The youngest boy, who was a baby when General Burgoyne took command in Canada, was christened "Burgoyne" in honor of that officer, from whom the loyalists expected such great achievements. When the child could just speak plainly he happened one day to be standing in the road near his mother's house, two men, evidently wayfarers approached and one of them asked the little fellow his name, "Burgoyne Kemp" was the reply. The questioner turned to his companion with a laugh, "I think" said he "that we are all right and need not inquire further," and then told the youngster to show them where he lived. They proved to be British agents in search of information or recruits, and being anxious to find a resting place among friends, they rightly took the boy's name to be a sufficient guarantee for the loyalty of his people. But the Kemp's callers were not

all of this description ; before the war was over the men of the family were hunted like wild beasts, they lay for many days in a cave or hole of some sort in the ground ; one of them contracted rheumatism so badly during their hardships that he was a cripple for the balance of his days. When the war ended they would gladly have remained in their home had they been allowed to live in peace, but after trying it for a while they went to New York State, having lost nearly everything they possessed. They continued in New York for a few years ; but being Loyalists still, and at no pains to conceal their opinions their neighbors seem to have invoked the aid of the authorities, and a party was sent to apprehend the older male members of the family. Receiving a hint of the coming danger they went into hiding near their house, and the escort was completely deceived as to their whereabouts by the lad Burgoyne, who acted as spokesman on this occasion. Shortly afterwards the Kemps crossed over to Canada.

David Kemp's name (as well as those of his brothers) appears in the list of subscribers to the building fund of St. Andrew's Church, Newark, 1794, and also as one of the earliest pew-holders. They had come to Niagara in 1793, he removed to Amherstburg early in the last century, and at about the commencement of the War of 1812 was employed in the Engineer Department. He accompanied the troops to Brownstown, and when Proctor retreated from Amherstburg, was one of the last who quitted Fort Malden, as he stayed to superintend the dismantling of the fort and destruction of stores. His family also accompanied the retreat. His eldest son, Andrew was then 13 years of age. The latter used to occasionally tell his grandsons about those times and one of the lads wrote down part of his grandfather's recollections. They are given here in the old gentleman's own words :—

“After General Hull's demonstration against Fort Malden, which ended in his retreat to Detroit and the surrender of that post to General Brock, I saw Brock at Amherstburg ; he was a fine jolly looking, middle aged man. I also saw Tecumseh ; he was a handsome, noble looking fellow, very clean and neat about his person, and usually dressed in a white shirt, deer skin leggings and other usual Indian apparel, but sometimes in a military red-coat, for he ranked as a Major-General. I have spoken to him. He was a Shawancee, who in common with many other Western Indians had been at war with the Yankees, and came all the way to Canada to fight for the British.” “A battle on the lake took place about 25 or 30 miles from Amherstburg, where we heard the guns. The British ships were mostly small merchantmen with a gun aboard,



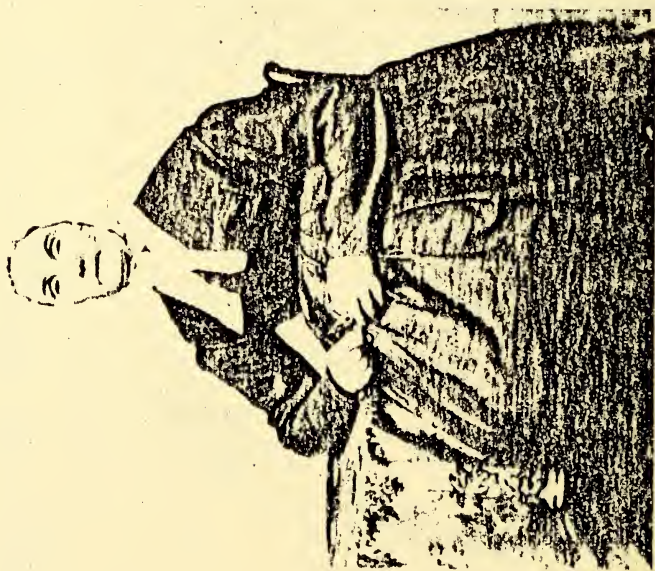
commanded by a captain of the Royal Navy as Commodore. He had lost an arm at Trafalgar. The provincials were poor sailors compared to British seamen, being mostly French Canadians and some of the crews were only soldiers. The vessels were undermanned and there were not sufficient guns, and what guns there were were not good while the American gunboats carried 32prs."

Referring to Proctor's retreat, during which (on the evening before the battle of the Thames the Kemps were taken prisoners, Mr. Kemp said :—

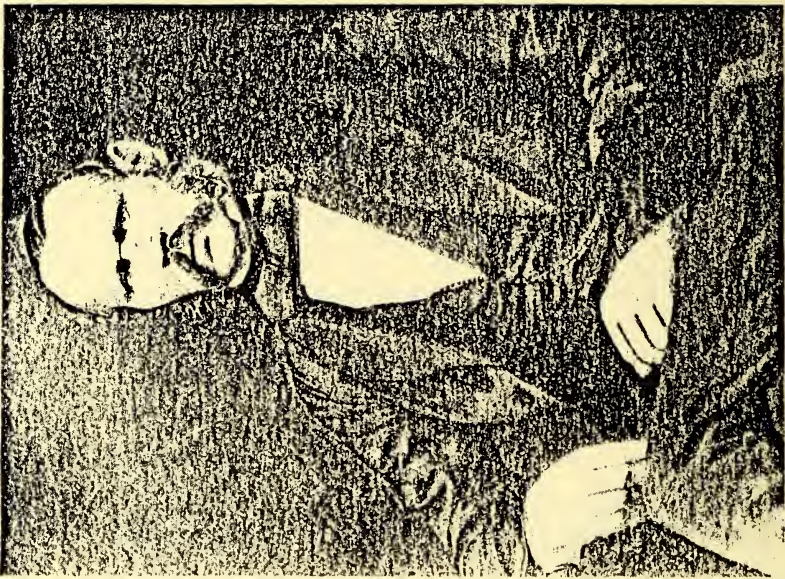
"We were taken prisoners a short distance above the village of Chatham while ascending the Thames. Father had been left behind at Chatham to destroy a vessel which was there, and only came up with our detachment a short time before we were taken. It was very late when he reached us. He at once went ashore to reconnoitre from a hill nearby, from there he saw the Kentucky Rifle Militia coming across the fields on horseback. We intended to reach an old empty house on the other side of the river and attempted to do so, but before we succeeded the bank was full of men who fired some shots at us because we did not come ashore fast enough when ordered, and they shot a woman through the cheeks. When they got us ashore, they robbed us of everything they could carry away even my mother's young baby's clothes. They chopped up everything else including a feather bed, and our blankets they put around their shoulders. Father was furious ; he told them if there had been only half a dozen of them he would have defied them to have touched anything and would have thrown them into the river. One of them named Naggs, who knew us, and who had formerly lived in Detroit, had to beg and pray of father to be quiet, fearing they would shoot him. Soon after the American Regulars under General Harrison came up, and my father was placed under a regular guard when he at once complained of the treatment we had received. He was advised to complain to the General and so mother went and spoke to him. Harrison was very kind to her and said "My good woman I will do everything I can for you." But the Militia only said "who cares for General Harrison ? None of his business what we do."

"My father was taken to Petite Cote near Sandwich where he lived on parole for a time (during the winter) until one day an officer came down and told him his parole would be up on a certain day, and that he was to go to Detroit ; when with other prisoners he would be sent to Greenbush. When he got to Detroit and had reported himself, he noticed that the Americans seemed very lax in the way they looked





Mrs. John Whitten  
(See page 25)



Andrew Kemp  
Born in Niagara 1800. See page 5

after their prisoners, so he began walking about and getting farther and farther away, and at last he slipped around a corner when he took to his heels and made his way to the back of the town, where he had plenty of friends who hid him, and helped him to get across the river again to the Canadian side. Father and I then set out on April 7th, 1814, to join the British forces at Niagara. My mother went to some friends at Sandwich. The first day out we had a canoe to travel in, the second day being on foot, we met a man named Johnson who was out looking for his horses, he had one horse with him and this he allowed me to ride all day. When we reached Johnson's house, we were obliged to stay there two days lying quiet, because we heard there of a party of Americans who were near. After this we continued our journey on foot. On one day our way lay through the 'Long Bush' where the road was just a cart track and no house for twenty-seven miles. The walking was dreadful, the snow newly fallen being about a foot deep with almost another foot of mud underneath. I got so tired that I lagged behind continually and father would have to wait for me, finally he made me walk ahead of him. I felt very downhearted and miserable, and father kept trying to cheer me up. At last we heard a cowbell which raised my spirits a little, and about dark we got into the village of Delaware, where we had plenty to eat and were made comfortable. Soon after that we had to go through the Township of Burford where the farmers were a very disaffected lot. They were very suspicious and inquisitive as to where we came from, and grumbled very much when we asked for a bed. They made us a shake down in front of the fire, which the hired man put out by sticking a large log on it, and there we lay and shivered all night on the floor which was made of rough logs with large cracks between, while there was a hole under the door large enough for a hog to come in at."

"When we got to the Grand River the bridge was broken down, but we could almost wade it. Where Hamilton now stands there was only one house at that time ; a small stone cottage near the mountain."

"We reached Niagara safely April 20th, and went to a friend's. When we arrived General Riall was down by the river, and sent up soon after to ask if there was a man belonging to the Engineer Department come from Sandwich, father went out to him, and was told he was wanted over at the Fort at once. General Riall asked him if he had brought his little boy with him and father said 'Yes.' The General then asked if I was a mechanic and father told him 'No' I had been at school. The General said 'Well, that's better

for him, but bring him along and we'll make him useful. I was put on regular rations of bread, meat and rum, and my pay was fifteen dollars per month. We stayed here in good quarters till the end of the war. I used to sell my rum for two dollars a quart. All the men got two gills extra to work on. I have seen a hogshead knocked in in the morning and all gone by dark. My work was to serve out tools and rum to the men. It was excellent rum, quite thick, it is very hard to get any rum like it nowadays. It was worth twenty-five cents a gill. Our work was done outside near the Fort. There was a shanty here and father used sometimes to leave small sums of money on a shelf there so as to be handy. It was always stolen when he did so, and suspicion fell on a man of the 1st Royal Scots, so a watch was set on him. He was a German, there were two loose stones in the foundation of the hut so that it was possible to get under the building. A hole was made in the floor and a watch set, and sure enough the man was caught and got 200 lashes."

"The Colonel of Royal Scots in order to make his men hardy, used to make them do sentry-go in the depth of the winter of 1814-15 without their great coats. They had come to Canada from the West Indies."

"There was a British gun-boat destroyed a few miles from Niagara. She was at York and her commander - a lieutenant was ordered to proceed to Niagara. On his own responsibility he undertook to give passage to some ladies who were going to Burlington, and went in there to land them. The wind was then in his favor but towards evening it changed, and he found himself beating up against it, trying to make the mouth of the river, with two Yankee gun-boats rapidly getting the weather gauge of him. The chase could be seen from Niagara, and the ramparts on the lake side were lined with people watching the struggle. The Americans kept heading the Britisher off, firing at him all the time and he replying to their shots. Finding it impossible to gain the shelter of the shore batteries, the commander of the British vessel ran her ashore in the mouth of a creek a few miles off and blew her up. It was then dusk and the explosion and fire in the wreck could be plainly seen by the lookers on. The British officer was court-martialled and dismissed from the service. It was said he afterwards joined the American service."

"The village of Queenston changed very little from the time I was there in 1815, up to when I visited it last a few years ago."

"There was a woman who lived in Amherstburg at the time of Proctor's retreat when the Americans overran the



place, who used to make plate pies out of sour green apples to which she put no sugar, and made up the paste without a particle of shortening in it. She sold the pies to the American soldiers at twenty-five cents each."

The family were united in Amherstburg after the close of the war. Andrew Kemp was an ensign in the 1st Essex Militia in after years, and assisted in the capture of the Schooner 'Anne' during the troubles of 1837-8. He also formed one of the expedition to Pelee Island, March 3rd, 1838, from whence the regulars and militia after a smart action drove the "Patriot Army" (otherwise "Brigands," as they are described on the old monument at Amherstburg.) Soon after the rebellion Andrew Kemp entered the Engineer Department. David Kemp died in 1842, leaving a large number of descendants. His son Andrew removed to Kingston in 1848, and retired from the Department in 1869, being then Clerk of Works. He died in 1887 in his 87th year.

(The notes from the reminiscences of Andrew Kemp were taken by H. G. Goodfellow and the abrupt break is thus accounted for. When Mr. Kemp found that his grandson was taking notes he stopped suddenly and would talk no more. The patriotism of the family was again shown in the case of a grandson, R. W. Goodfellow, who went with the first contingent to South Africa and gave his life at Paardeberg, Feb. 18th, 1900.—J.C.)

## REV. JOHN OAKLEY

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It may be said in explanation that the Rev. John Oakley appears in different positions, in a military capacity, as a preacher, as a teacher. The latter is shown by advertisements in the papers of that day. His home was next that in which the Rev. T. Phillipps taught the Grammar School. The following extracts were made from the Journal in possession of his daughter, Mrs. Dorland, in Toronto, by Miss Quade, the niece of Mr. Oakley.

"I arrived at Niagara about the middle of October, 1814, two months after I reached America. Soon after my arrival there I was appointed to take charge of all the military stores, and at Fort George. In 1815 I married Mary Henry, eldest daughter of an Artillery Pensioner. In 1816 I was placed upon the reduced army list on half pay in consequence of general peace with all nations.

Before I left Niagara the Lord enabled me to obtain means of building a chapel in the western side of the town. It was a plain substantial building 30 x 40 and is now occupied principally by the African race as they being the most numerous members in the church, the white members when a Baptist Chapel was built at X Roads now Virgil (4 Mile Creek) united with the church which met there. While I resided in Niagara Elder Winchell, who had been instrumental in organizing a church at Queenston, preached once a fortnight for one year in Niagara and Elder Neill once a month, at the time I left that town.

Niagara, July 5th, 1830.

I am much encouraged with the liberality of the brethren and friends in subscribing towards the building our Meeting House, may the Lord bless our undertaking, it is a very serious one and I appear to be almost left alone in the business.

July 16th, 1830.

With the assistance of Deacon Beam and brother Pickard we have at once determined upon the place and size of a Meeting House and have advertised for undertakers.



July 29th, 1830.

We are now very deficient of a suitable place for meeting but I think we must endeavor to have a room for that purpose until we can have the Meeting House built.

Sept. 1st, 1830.

Have been busily engaged in getting timber hauled to Niagara for building the Meeting House and we have made arrangements to have the building raised and enclosed by the middle of November next.

Sept. 18th, 1830.

Have been busily engaged during the last week in superintending the business of the Meeting House.

Oct. 4th, 1830.

It is four weeks since I have written in my Journal. The two first weeks of the time I was travelling for the purpose of soliciting money from the brethren of other churches and others to assist us in building the Meeting House. The Lord gave us favor in the sight of the people so that not only our friends but many of those who were opposed to our sentiments subscribed liberally toward the undertaking. I have been greatly grieved with the consideration that some of our brethren who are able and from whom we might naturally have expected the greatest encouragement and assistance have done less for us than many who do not profess to have experienced a change of heart. Out of 200 subscribers and several of these Catholics, there are not at present more than thirty brethren and sisters from our own denomination. During the time I was absent from my family I succeeded better than I had anticipated. Through the goodness of God who has the hearts of all men in his hands, we have been enabled to raise the frame of the building, that we intend (the Lord permitting us) to consecrate entirely to the services of our God, without the customary use of ardent spirits and oh ! that it may be the birthplace of many souls.

Nov. 2nd, 1830.

Oh that all of us who occupy the little church in this place may finally prove to be of the fold of Christ.

Nov. 8th, 1830.

Last Saturday while employed in collecting for the Meeting House I had several opportunities of speaking to my fellow creatures respecting the things that make for our eternal peace."

The church thus referred to was used many years by the colored people of the town, of whom there were several

hundred at one time, principally escaped slaves who had followed the North Star to Liberty. Rev. J. B. Mowat, pastor of St. Andrew's preached to them frequently 1850 to 1857. Their numbers gradually decreased and the building was finally sold and removed to the Oliver farm. In the graveyard many of those dusky brothers and sisters are buried, but one white child is buried here, a daughter of the pastor. Rev. Jno. Oakley, as may be seen by the inscription. At first the church seems to have been attended principally by white people but soon the blacks predominated, and a dispute arose as to the possession of the church. In the words of Mrs. Guillen "The Black Baptis and the White Baptis fought for it but the Black Baptis won" In the early days it is said crowds were taken for baptism to the creek on the property of Mr. J. H. Burns, now a peach orchard, and sometimes to the lake near Kennedy's Hollow, it is told of one who when presented for baptism, in fright ran home. The oil painting of Col. Butler in the possession of the Historical Society was copied from the original picture by Mr. Henry Oakley, the son of Rev. J. Oakley. Mr. Oakley was born in England in 1792. In the entry of his marriage in St. Mark's register he is called Clerk of Field Train.—J.C.

# Recollections of Mrs. Elizabeth Quade, nee Henry

Miss Quade, of Ransomville, has given many interesting particulars of her grandfather and grandmother as well as having favored us with several contributions to the Historical Room, and I have tried to put together these written at different times. The first given was written by her mother in Aug. 1889.

"My father, Dominic Henry, was born in the county of Derry, Ireland. When eighteen years of age he enlisted in the Royal Artillery, which came to this country at the time of the Revolutionary War and was in the army of Cornwallis at the time of his surrender in 1781. My father obtained a furlough to go home and visit his parents and friends; his furlough lasted six months and during that time he became acquainted with Mary Madden, born in the county of Antrim and in 1790 they were married and he returned to his regiment, the 4th Battalion of Royal Artillery, they were moved to several parts of Canada and at last came to Fort George, where he ended his military service, obtained his discharge and kept the light-house where he remained eleven years from 1803 to 1814, the light house being then taken down, and the tower which now stands built near the same spot in Fort Mississagua enclosure. His term of military service was 30 years and 30 days, and he died in Niagara in 1829."

In the Wilson Star of Oct. 11th, 1888, is an article by a reporter who interviewed Mrs. Quade, then 84 years of age, which gives some additional particulars. She said "that the population of Niagara in 1812 was about 400, while Youngstown at that time consisted of two frame houses owned by men of the names of Grinset and Swain. There was no church there, and the officers and soldiers stationed at Fort Niagara crossed over to Fort George and attended services on Sunday, and coming in contact with Canadian and British officers there a friendship sprung up between the officers of both armies. I remember when war was declared in June 1812, when the news reached Fort George great excitement prevailed. Some American officers over at Fort George left

the King's Wharf near there and parted with sincere regret. On Sunday before the declaration of war General Brock attended St. Mark's church and Dr. West from Youngstown, had with him his two pretty little daughters, General Brock bid them goodbye, and said to Dr. West "Good-Bye, when we meet again we shall be enemies. The reporter goes on to say Mrs. Quade saw many exciting times during the war. The Americans had one day been firing and she was playing house with several children near the lighthouse when a man came along and picked up a cannon ball which had just been fired, he was passing along with it in his arms when another ball which had just been fired struck the one he had in his arms and he was killed instantly, Capt. Bernard Frey. At another time she and several other children were playing in a wheelbarrow near the lighthouse when a cannon ball struck about two feet from them. They then ran behind the lighthouse and in another moment another ball struck the wheelbarrow they had just left, smashing it to atoms. Another time an old lady, named Grier, was feeding her cat when a red hot ball struck the cat, killing it instantly, the old lady was greatly incensed against the enemy. When the town was burned the lighthouse was left as it benefited the Americans as well as the British. General Harrison when stopping a short time at Fort George 1813, called at the lighthouse and engaged in a conversation with her father, the keeper, who gave the details of several battles favorable to the British. Being in civilians' clothes Henry did not know for some time that he was talking to General Harrison and begged him not to consider his conversation very serious, he having spoken very freely, but was told that he could not be blamed for standing up for his country.

Miss Quade lately found a paper written by her mother in 1886, when she was 82 years of age. "As I looked at the picture of St. Mark's Church it brought to my mind many things that happened in days long passed and gone. That was the church where I was baptized by the Rev. Robt. Addison in May 1804, with a brother and sister at the same time, and he also performed the marriage ceremony for two of my sisters, Mary, who married Rev. John Oakley in 1816, then an officer in the Field Train Department and also my sister Catharine, who married Mr. Chase. The Rev. Thos. Green, his successor, was a Presbyterian when he came to Niagara but after a few years became an Episcopal minister, I heard him preach his first sermon in Niagara, it was preached in a school house, Presbyterian school house, used as church after the war, as the church had been burnt down. His text was



"Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Bozrah?" I afterwards heard him preach a funeral sermon in the Episcopal church for a young girl, the daughter of Lawyer Cameron. His text was Jer. 3, 4. "Wilt thou not from this time call unto me, My Father, thou art the guide of my youth?" The text followed me till I at last sought the Lord to be my guide, and I find that he whom I sought to be my guide in my youth is my stay in my old age. My mind has been carried back to my childhood's days to the time of the building of Fort Mississagua. I think perhaps there is no other person living who can tell what I can about it. I saw the first sods dug that were used in the building of that fort. The lighthouse stood on the ground where the old tower now stands, our dwelling house also stood near the lighthouse and there is the place where I was born and my childhood days were past there and after the war the lighthouse was torn down and the tower built from the stone and bricks from the ruins of the town and lighthouse. I can remember far better what took place in those days than I can things that transpired but a short time ago, I well remember the day General Brock and his Aid-de-Camp were killed. I was at the funeral, I remember hearing the muffled drums beating and of seeing the soldiers standing in line and the band marched between the two lines of soldiers across the common to Fort George where he was buried, and the American flag at Fort Niagara was at half mast. The day after the funeral my mother took us children up to Queenston to let us see where General Brock was killed. It was at the foot of the hill near a thorn tree, I have been there many times since and think I could go to the very spot now. I remember when the Americans took Niagara and well do I remember when they left it leaving the village in flames, and I can remember many other things that occurred then of which I have not time to write now. Many of the people of the town brought furniture and articles of value to our house while the town was burning till the house was full and we could take no more. It is now fifty-five years since I left Niagara and settled in the town of Porter, now called Ransomville. I should like to know how many of the inhabitants are now living who were in Niagara when I left in 1831. I went there a few years ago to look once more at my former home and I found but few of my acquaintances left, Miss Jane Winterbottom, Miss Agnes McKee and Mr. Bernard Clench. The last school I attended was to Miss McKee's father and mother."

We are fortunate indeed in having the reminiscences of such an intelligent and well informed narrator. Mrs.



Quade was often surrounded by the children of the neighbors begging for a story of the taking of Niagara. To make it clearer she drew a sketch on common wrapping paper which is now framed and in possession of the Historical Society. It shows the river, Youngstown, fort, lighthouse, batteries and town.

In a very rare book, the report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society formed during the war of 1812-14, there is a very interesting mention of Mrs. Henry. It appears that on the day of the taking of Fort George Mrs. Henry, living near the lighthouse, served out refreshments to our soldiers who were resisting the enemy landing on the lake shore. For this noble deed the Loyal and Patriotic Society afterwards gave her the sum of £25 calling her a "brave woman and one not to be frightened."

Miss Quade also tells us that when her mother brought her children to Niagara for a visit and they landed from Youngstown to the Ferry she would say in passing what is left to us of Navy Hall "There is the old Parliament House." We possess a very good picture of Mrs. Quade, and a love letter addressed to her in 1824, which is very interesting to visitors at the Room, also a letter to Mrs. Henry, Fort George, 1820 from Ireland referring to different officers and soldiers. Dominic Henry and his wife are both buried in St. Mark's Cemetery not far from the church, but no stone as yet marks the grave of the veteran and his brave wife one of the heroines of the past.

Mrs. Quade lived to the age of 90, dying in 1894, an obituary in the local paper speaks of her Christian testimony on her death bed. —Ed.

## REV. JOHN McEWAN

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Rev. John McEwan was the son of Capt. McEwan, who fought at Queenston Heights and is honorably mentioned in the military despatches as having fought well. We are fortunate in possessing copies of several letters sent to Miss Quade giving his early recollections which confirm, or clear up several doubtful points in the history of our town.

"I was born in Niagara in 1811, Niagara in my boyhood was a flourishing town, it was the market for the farmers living within a radius of forty miles. Many brought their produce to market in large boats, great crowded market waggons could also be seen in the market place. It was a sight for the boys to see the four horse coaches in the morning as they came from Niagara Falls with travellers. On 13th Oct., 1824, I was present when the remains of General Brock and his aid were taken from the ramparts of Fort George to the monument on Queenston Heights. When General Brock's coffin was opened the flesh was still on his face, it continued thus however only for a moment or two after the air struck it. The hearse was a large army waggon covered with black cloth, it was drawn by four black horses, driven by a black driver, four black men walked by the head of the horses. Boy like I followed the procession, though young, walking to Queenston and back again. When we got back to Capt. Cooper's Grove there was a halt called and a rest taken. I have always understood that the building between Fort George and Butler's Barracks was the Parliament House. The lighthouse on the American side must have been built as early as 1815, I can remember it at an early period of my life on the large building at the north east corner of the Fort. General Brock was buried in the north east corner of the ramparts of Fort George. I have been at his grave often. On the east side of the Fort there was a fine fish pond for the officers of the regiment. It was close to the Fort built of stone, a spring of clear water supplied it, so clear that the fish could plainly be seen. On the west side of the ramparts multitudes would assemble on race days to see the races. On the first street, south of St. Mark's running east and west, the hill leading to the river was cut down to make it more easy

of ascent and Indian bones, kettles, and other articles used by Indians were found, it was supposed to have been an Indian burying ground before Niagara was peopled by the whites. I can give the names of the merchants, hotel keepers, steamboats. An old tree stood at the south corner of Mr. Jno. Secord's farm, the first farm from the town on the Lake Road, it was the most gigantic oak I ever saw, was I think double the height of any tree near it and with the exception of Brock's Monument, was the first thing seen in crossing from Toronto. The Free Masons used to meet in Alexander Roger's Hotel. I have always understood that the first Parliament met in the building used as a Military Hospital in my time. The ramparts of Fort Mississagua were enclosed with oak pickets ten or twelve feet above the ground. The pickets were brought from the whirlpool and rafted down.

The night when the town was burned I have been told that a number of people were huddled together in a large smoke house, belonging to my father. Part of the time the English church was used as a prison. My father was there one night as a prisoner to the Americans and that night two prisoners were scalped by the Indians. My father, Capt. McEwan of the Flank Co. 1st Lincoln Regt., was wounded at the battle of Niagara, was found after the battle and taken home, but was taken prisoner out of his bed and sent to Green Bush near Albany, N.Y.

The stone house on the corner near the English church was built by old Mr. Eaglesum. It was said that he picked up stones from the ruins of the town wherever he could and carried them on his back or in his arms to the lot.

The first ministers I remember were Rev. Mr. Addison, and Rev. Mr. Burns of the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches. The wharf was the King's wharf and the building there was the King's Storehouse. The teachers I remember were Mrs. Ewart, Mrs. Newall, Mr. Alex. McKee, Mr. Crombie, and Mr. Oakley. Rev. Jno. Burns taught the District school. I remember Walter Dickson as a scholar, John Waters was the best mathematician in school, Mr. Green was the preceptor after Rev. Jno. Burns and then J. G. Ralston. An early teacher was Mr. Hurst, and Mr. Roberts, the latter taught at one time in an upper room of the frame building used by the Presbyterian Church after the war. Mr. Roberts was drowned in Niagara the day after his school closed."

The Rev. Jno. McEwan (also spelled McEuan) who was born in Niagara 1811, died in Moberly, Mo., in 1901. He was licensed to preach in 1839 and filled different appointments till 1887. He was interred in Tonawanda, N.Y.—J.C.

# Reminiscences of Mr. Daniel Field

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Reminiscences of the war of 1812-13-14 as given by Mr. Daniel Field at a family gathering on the anniversary of his 80th birthday.

I volunteered in a company of Dragoons, under the command of Major Merritt in 1811, and in June 1812 war was declared and I was called out on the 20th of June for active service. I was at the taking of Detroit for which I received a medal\* and was orderly to Major Glegg at the battle of Queenston Heights on the 13th October, 1812, during which General Brock fell, during the ensuing winter I carried despatches from Queenston to Chippewa, I also was engaged in the battle of Lundy's Lane, our company got scattered and I got separated from them and was on the battle field all night carrying drink to the wounded, who lay scattered over the field, I was quite near Mr. Cockell, who was shot at that battle. Previous to this I was at the battle of Niagara on the 27th May. I was there carrying ammunition from Fort George to the army, during the battle I left my team and ran to the scene of action, when returning I came upon a wounded soldier who was unable to walk, so I took him on my back and carried him to the hospital, we were then forced to retire to Burlington Heights.

I was with the army during the whole of the ensuing summer, but received my discharge in November, and then returned to my home on the bank of Niagara River, but had scarcely been there two hours when I was taken prisoner by the Americans and taken to Niagara town. The next day they took me and my horse over the river to Fort Niagara on the American side, where I was kept a prisoner for six weeks. It was while I was there that the town of Niagara was burned by the Americans and evacuated by them.

There were 16 white and 12 Indian prisoners in the Fort with me, through the aid of a friend I got home again. As soon as it was known by Col. Hamilton of the 100th Regt.

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\*Mentioned on page 12, No. 5 of publications of Niagara Historical Society, where there is an engraving of the Field's House.

and officers they called on me to give information with regard to Fort Niagara, which they contemplated attacking.

A few days after, Col. Hamilton with his regiment crossed over for that purpose, and I with a company, called the "Forlorn Hope" was the first to cross. I piloted them into the Fort, which was taken after much loss of life, and that was one of my last adventures of the war.

"And now the war is over boys,  
Down we'll sit at ease,  
We'll plough and sow,  
And reap and mow,  
And do just as we please."



## REMINISCENCES OF MR. JAS. A. DAVIDSON

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In a letter to the *Niagara Times* he says : "You frequently publish articles that interest me much in reference to old Niagara fifty or sixty years ago, and this has put the whim into my mind to give you some of my early recollections when I became a dweller therein in 1836. Commencing at the north end of the principal street, Queen, R. M. Crysler carried on an extensive store, across from that the British American Hotel, then kept by Peter Cain, then the store of Wilson and Charles then the watchmaker's shop of Canniff, then the Clement block of stores, first that of Lewis Clement & Sons, next Peter Drummond's, extensive grocery and that of the Laidlaw Bros., and on the corner a brick store, the fine establishment of Balfour & Drysdale. Next up street was the hardware store of R. M. Long, the law office of Jas. Boulton, then a vacant lot owned by Jno. Young, and on the corner a two story tin roofed brick store in which Jas. Lockhart had a branch of the Commercial Bank, then the large brick store of J. L. Alma and a watchmaker's shop kept by one Peters, and on the corner at Market Square J. J. Ralston's stationer's store, at the next corner of the Market Square a brick store, Clark's grocery, then a tall narrow three story store, kept by Thos. Shaw, and adjoining it the tinware and hardware of the Wagstaff's. On the next corner Wm. Barr's extensive store, then John Andrew's furniture store and farther on opposite the Catholic Church R. Moffat's Hotel, then go down the street northward again on the corner of King the law office of E. C. Campbell, afterwards judge, the drug store of Jas. Harvey, then Culver and Cameron's store, a tailor's shop, Frazer, and the great store of Jno. Young and his residence, a wooden store, Stocking & Grier's big store. John Grier and Judge Campbell were the two tallest men in the Niagara District. Next to Stocking & Grier's was the blacksmith's shop of Matthew Dobbie, then Smart's hat store, and the tailor's shop of Campbell & Sherwood, and Miss Thorpe's grocery, and Fisher's watchmaker's shop. On the corner the drug store of Ralph Clench. Across on the next corner was

Brown's hotel, the dwelling place of Dr. Matthews, Brown's store, shop, and Massey's harness shop, the bakery of Dix and Hay, the residence of Charles Field, and on the corner Maloney's tailoring establishment, employing six or eight workmen. On the next corner a tin-roofed brick block of Blake and Rogers, next to this the Roger's residence and next the Post Office, then a two story brick house, next the residence of Archibald Gilkison, then the residence of R. M. Crysler, afterwards sold to C. L. Hall, a lawyer, and next north, the fine house of Jas. Lockhart, merchant, shipowner and banker, this house was erected by Chas. Richardson.

In 1837 I remember standing on the top of Fort Mississagua with J. F. R. Comer, Commissariat Dept., watching the cloud of black smoke, when Montgomery's tavern was burnt. The little Steamer Commodore Barrie had a few days before taken a load of volunteers from Niagara to fight the rebels. When they returned, some with faces purposely blacked, some with pikes picked up on the field, one, Tom Stead, with a big bay horse captured, there was a jolly crowd. The late Hon. Jno. Simpson was one of the most active of the volunteers. Capt. Barker's Company of Fireman went to Chippawa as part of the military force and Capt. Clench's Company of colored troops to Port Robinson to guard the Welland Canal.

Niagara in my boyhood was the great trading point for the district. The Niagara Harbour and Dock Company was at the height of its prosperity and employed hundreds of workmen, many steamers were built here. All the court business for the counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand was here transacted. In 1838 a company of Sappers and Miners arrived from England and were employed in the renovation of Fort Mississagua. Also about this time perhaps the finest military body that ever came to the district, the King's Dragoon Guards, officered by men of wealth and title. The men were all six feet in height with fine well trained horses. Butler's Barracks was put in order for them, many of the officers were in private houses. Some of the young officers when on a lark often carried off the big gilded boot, the sign of P. Finn, shoemaker, and sometimes paid a fine of \$25 for this, so that it proved very profitable to the owner.

## Reminiscences of American Occupation of Niagara from 27th May to 10th Dec., 1813

These have been gathered from conversations with descendants of those living in the town or from letters and other documents.

Mrs. Follett remembers that her mother, Mrs. Whitten, daughter of Samuel Cassady, told her that on the day of the attack Mrs. Cassady with her children walked out to Butler's farm for safety and the daughter Jane, afterwards Mrs. Whitten, carried her little brother on her back. They stayed all night in the barn and the mother returned in the morning to see how matters stood. The house was on Queen Street near Mr. John Sando's and was found to be occupied by American officers. She had left bread recently baked in the house and on inquiring if she could return with her children, they asked who made the bread they had found in the house and offered to let her return on condition that she would bake for them, they supplying 100 lbs. of flour and she giving 100 lbs. of bread and to have all the additional loaves for herself. This she did all the time they were in occupation a proof no doubt that Mrs. Cassady made good bread. She also remembers that the house near was occupied by her brother-in-law, Mr. Chas. Field, and on the soldiers ransacking the house they found in an upper room in a trunk the Free Mason Regalia as the meetings were held in the house at one time as shown by notices in the papers. An officer stopped them, evidently one of the fraternity, and the house was free from plundering on that account.

A letter from Hon. Wm. Dickson at Albany 14th Aug., 1813, contains the account of himself and others who were made prisoners in violation of the promise of Dearborn. On 19th June they were made prisoners, kept in a house in town, then sent to Fort Niagara, three days hence to Batavia, Canadaigua, Geneva, Utica, 300 miles in 57 days. A list of persons is given who were taken into custody on 19th, 20th, 21st June 1813. Another document gives the names of non-combatants to whom passports were given on Dec. 11th,

1813, and in a list of 8th Jan., 1814 ; proposed for exchange, the names seem to be all military. The report of Jno. Erly, M.D., to Harvey as to return of prisoners kept at Sandusky in a low swampy place, fever and dysentery, prevail, men are weak, sallow, he had never in any place seen such sickness among soldiers. The list is :—

Wm. Dickson, Barrister	Jno. McFarland, Boat-builder
Jno. Symington, Merchant	Ralph Clench, Clerk of Peace
Jos. Edwards, Merchant	Jno. Powell, Registrar
Jas. Muirhead, Surgeon	Geo. Lawe, Usher to L.C.
Andrew Heron, Merchant	Jno. McEwan, Merchant
Jno. Grier, Merchant	Jacob Ball, Farmer
Jno. Crooks, Clerk to Jas. Crooks, and twelve others.	

The list to whom passports were given on Dec. 11th, 1813, Wm. Dickson, Jno. Edwards, Jno. Grier, Jno. McFarland, Jno. Crooks, J. Baldwin, A. Heron, others on Dec. 8th and Dec. 24th signed on Jan. 1814.

Mrs. Wm. Dickson when the town was burned was ill in bed and was carried out and lay on the snow watching the destruction of the house, the first brick house built in Niagara shown by a letter dated 1795. The library was valued at £600. The late Walter H. Dickson then a boy of six remembered them threatening to throw him in the well.

Mrs. McKee, whose husband was a prisoner at the Fort on the death of a child refused to have it buried till the husband and father could come to the funeral. He was blindfolded and brought over with a guard and then returned the same way. When the town was burned the family had seven buildings burned, the store with valuable goods from Montreal, a soap and candle manufactory, two dwelling houses, etc. They packed fifteen trunks with the most valuable things and their friend, the father of the late Dr. Rolls sent for them to his house near St. Catharines. The mother to keep her little girl from standing on the snow while watching the conflagration placed her on a large tea tray, but in spite of all her toes were partly frozen. On reaching the Eight-Mile Creek the trunks were buried and covered with brushwood to be safe from marauders.

Mr. Andrew Heron, the Secretary and Librarian of the Niagara Library started in 1800, lived near what was afterwards Howard's Hotel but was then a prisoner at Greenbush with others formerly mentioned, found on his return that his wife with an infant child (afterwards Mrs. Dugdale) had been carried out on the snow while the town was burning. The library of 1800-1820 was partly saved as shown by entries afterwards and lists of books bought to replace those destroyed. Mrs. Taylor of Ancaster, has part of a volume which her fath-



er, Capt. Taylor, saved from the burning building and it was supposed to be the only book so saved, but the existence of several is known of. The fragment had had charred leaves. One book, No. 81, is now in possession of the Niagara Historical Society and Mrs. M. Servos has two volumes also with the original label. There were 400 people in the town, mostly women and children, or old men and invalids, as the able bodied were either prisoners or in the militia fighting.

The house of Mr. Ralph Clench was not burned as shown in "Proceedings of the Loyal and Patriotic Society," but was burnt accidentally a few weeks afterwards, two families Clench and Stewart, were living there, and help was given as there were seventeen thus left homeless.

The late John Rogers told me that he was a boy of nine at the time and that he distinctly remembered being on the street when a cannon ball fired from Fort Niagara passed near him. Their home could have been saved as they had friends, indeed relatives among the American officers, but were told this would only be an injury as it would be thought they were disloyal and sympathizers with the enemy. It is told that one of the beautiful mantel pieces in the present house was saved by Mrs. Rogers, who carried it out herself.

Mrs. Winterbottom was in the house situated where Dr. Ker's house stands and American officers boarded there. An Indian came in one day and demanded liquor, her child, the late W. B. Winterbottom, ran screaming that his mother was being killed, as on her refusal the Indian raised his tomahawk to kill her but an officer fortunately struck him down with his sword. During the bombardment people retreated to their cellars, some hung blankets over their windows, some took refuge after the burning in a cave dug in the side of a hill or made huts of rough boards.

Mrs. Campbell, wife of Fort Major Campbell. The following letters show the sufferings and losses of the family.

Stamford, 28th June, 1815.

Madam--The Province of Nova Scotia having voted the sum of £2500 for the relief of sufferers on the Niagara frontier from the conflagration of their houses by the enemy, the trustees appointed by the President, Sir Gordon Drummond to distribute the fund, have deposited in the hands of Thos. Dickson, Esq., of Queenston, the sum of £63 12s 8 1-2d, to be paid to your receipt on demand. They have done this on the supposition that such a sum might be acceptable although no application to share in this benevolence has been made on your behalf. Should you decline to accept the sum.



the Trustees request that you would signify your pleasure to Mr. Dickson as early as possible so that it may be divided amongst others,

Thos. Scott  
Wm. Dummer Powell  
John Strachan.

Mrs. Major Campbell,  
Windsor,  
Nova Scotia.

In a letter from York, Jan. 18th, 1816, from Alex. Wood the claims of Mrs. Campbell are stated. "She bore her troubles with much fortitude and resolution. She was in comfortable circumstances, and on the death of her husband in 1812, with three young children was unable to leave the place and on the memorable night of the destruction of the town she was driven from her house with her infants, without the possibility of saving her own or their clothes and was with Mrs. Wm. Dickson exposed for three days and nights upon the snow with the canopy of Heaven for a covering, her house once the seat of hospitality and plenty reduced to ashes before her face, a few valuables she had endeavoured to save were torn from her by a monster in human form and carried off and divided. All this is known to several respectable people."

In a letter from Alex Stewart, July 25th, 1823, to Alex. Wood, York, supposedly a statement of losses for Government damages he mentions that "the widow Campbell lived in a house 36 x 26, a story and a half high, finished in handsome style with barn etc., a good fence round two acres of land with fruit trees. Her house was furnished in a style corresponding with the rank of her husband, a Major in the army. Her furniture plundered and a sum of money taken from her hands by a villian of our country serving under the rebel Wilcocks. Several gentleman have placed the value of her property at £1200 cy. On her husband's death leaving three children, one an infant, this unfortunate woman after carrying it four miles to baptism had to dig its grave and cover its remains. If there is an individual who can claim more commiseration than another surely it would be Mrs. Campbell."

Statement of loss by the conflagration of the town 10th Dec. 1813, of Mrs. Eliza Campbell, widow of Fort Major Duncan Campbell.

Dwelling House, Barn	£600	s 0	2 Pair Tongs and Shovels	£	2	s
10 Silver Table Spoons	£ 10	0	1 Pair Dog Irons	£	2	0
10 Dessert Spoons	6	5	1 Large Iron Oven	1	5	
20 Tea Spoons	5	10	1 Large Wash Kettle	1	0	
1 Silver Soup Ladle	3	0	1 Bell Metal Wash Kettle	1	10	
4 Salt & Mustard Spoons	1	0	2 Iron Pots, Frying Pan	1	15	
2 Silver Cups, large	12	0	1 Large Copper Tea Kettle	1	10	
1 Chest drawers	5	0	6 Dozen Table Plates	2	0	
13 Chairs	4	15	2 Dozen Dishes	3	10	
1 Complete Set			15 Glass Tumblers	1	5	
Walnut Dining Table	6	0	12 Wine Glasses		14	
1 Four Post Bedstead	4	0	2 Dressing Glasses	2	12	
1 Travelling Bedstead	3	10	1 Piece White Cotton	2	13	
2 Camp Bedsteads	5	0	1 Wrapper Coat	4		
1 Small Bedstead	2	0	1 Barrel Pork	5		
1 Washstand	1	0	1 Barrel Beef	4	0	
5 Small Tables	2	10	1 Handsome Fowling Piece	5		
1 Cow and Calf	5	10	Tea Tray, 4 doz. Cups and Saucers	2	4	
1 Mare, two year old, 1 yearling	30	0	1 Wood Saw, 2 Spades			
3 Canadian Stoves	25	0				

£778 13

(Fort Major Campbell was taken prisoner with Cornwallis, served afterwards at Halifax, was Capt. in 5th Regt. and Fort Major at Fort George, where he was buried shortly after Sir Isaac Brock, near the West Garrison Gate. Ed. J.C.)

In a letter from Geo. Phillips, Royal Engineer's Office, Fort George, he asks as to the claims of people in Niagara whose chimneys and walls were taken down to build by others and asks whether the price of the brick or stone is to be given or value as standing as chimneys are good enough to build round and some walls good enough to put a roof on. In July last when there was a probability of Americans attacking Fort George and Mississauga he was ordered by General Riall to cut down all orchards in the town and level all the buildings which could afford cover to an enemy between the forts. People are demanding to be paid for the loss sustained.

Wm. Hamilton Merritt says in his diary that "on the 6th we went down to Castle Chorus with Capt. Hamilton, Jarvis, McKenny and Ball to find some medicine buried there, next day procured a wagon had the chest dug up. Whilst there at breakfast at Squire P. Ball's a fight commenced between Indians under Capt. Norton and Chief Blackbird and about 600 of the States Infantry. In Oct. Mr. Gordon, his brother-in-law took his family from 12 Mile Creek to Burlington for safety.

On Dec. 10th saw by the glare at night that the town was on fire. On the advance of Col. Murray nothing but heaps

of coals and streets full of furniture was seen, Mr. Gordon's house left standing. The barracks and woodwork nearly consumed. I returned to Rev. Mr. Addison's almost famished and had a good sleep."

Rev. Jno. McEwan says "the night the town was burned a number of people were huddled together in a large smoke house owned by my father. Part of the time the old English Church was used as a prison. My father, Capt. McEwan, was there one night as a prisoner. He was wounded at the battle of Niagara and taken home, was taken prisoner out of his bed and sent to Greenbush, N.Y."

In ten years of U.C., by Mrs. Edgar. A letter from T. G. Ridout to his father from St. Davids 20th July, 1813. "Rode down to the Cross Roads three miles from Niagara where the Royal King's and 600 or 700 Indians are posted. The Americans were advancing into Ball's fields. Blackbird and Norton went to meet them. We rode to within 1 1/4 miles of the town. The road was covered with Indians, officers and soldiers from the Presbyterian Church. They must have judged our force 3000, but we had only 1000."

The same officer writes from St. Davids 24th Aug., 1813. "Lieut. Col. O'Neil with 30 Dragoons 19th covered the advance of Lt.-Col. Harvey into the town. Scouring several of the streets as far as the Presbyterian Church, Col. Harvey called at his old quarters and recovered a box he had left there. The enemy commenced a brisk fire from the garden walls and houses, but our troops retired in order and with little loss.

Sept. 15th, Headquarters near Niagara. We burn rails, steal apples, pears and peaches. I carry on foraging, onions, eggs, turkeys, musk melons, milk cows, etc.

Sept 4th, 1813, Four Mile Creek. We have changed quarters from St. Davids. The 8th, 104th, part of the 89th and 100th on the edge of the wood, in front the main road crossing the camp by Mr. Addison's, where the General stays we took possession of an old house, made a straw bed on the floor. We collect balm from the garden for tea and carry on an extensive robbery of peas, onions, corn, carrots, etc., for we can get nothing but by stealing except milk. Bread and butter is out of the question, we have an iron pot which serves for teapot, roaster, and boiler, and two window shutters put upon three barrels serve for a table.

Sept. 21st. I carry on the foraging the nests are kept nice and clean from eggs. We feed a turkey every day at the door, which is doomed for our Sunday dinner. I wish George could bring a little starch with him for the frills of my shirts. Peggy



Nelles has just mended my blue coat and sent it down to me for which I thank her very much ; concerning the shirts the starch has not yet come to hand."

Mrs. R. N. Ball, says the Crooks family left for Thorold at 12 at night, 26th May from Crookston, one mile creek, carried a child of ten which was helpless. Old Jacob Ball's wife also went to Thorold carrying a baby. The log house at Crookston was swimming with blood the day of the battle. The Ball home was 74 ft. long, part of logs, additions were built in 1814. It was taken down and is now a packing house for fruit, the ceiling is high and the old doors may yet be seen.

Rev. John Carrol in *My Boy Life*, gives his own recollections and those of his mother. Born in 1809 he was only four when the family came to Niagara and his father and two brothers enlisted in the Royal Artillery Drivers and had been in the town a fortnight when the battle occurred May 27th, 1813, "I remember the militia men pouring into the house to receive a badge of white cotton or linen on the arm to let the Indians know that we were British, (for both sides employed Indians). I remember the women in tears, ranks of red coated soldiers then sounds, bang, bang, pop, pop. Mother said the bullets flew like handfuls of peas, then a crashing sound through the house, it was a cannon ball, through the walls over our heads, mother took us out of the house, spread a blanket near a fence close to a wheatfield, another cannon ball ploughed up the ground near us mother thought it time to flit, a brother ten years old had a feather bed and some bedding in a sheet tied on his back and we went to the Four Mile Creek. Our horses on the common fell into the enemy's hands, the house we left was afterwards burned with all our household effects. We got into good quarters, an old farmer, George Lawrence, a Methodist Class Leader, took us in. Mrs. Lawrence had a good voice and used to sing the old fashioned spiritual songs. Defensive works were thrown up in the northwest bank of the creek, about a quarter of a mile away. We were at the mercy of the foraging parties from both sides. Some paid and others did not. The old man wept when abused that the victuals were not better. A guard of thirty was placed near. Old Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Dutch people, had two sons, Hans and Hinery in the Provincial Dragoons. Mrs. Cassady who came there to nurse a sick daughter performed two very heroic acts. One day shots were heard, a little soldier who had been posted in the orchard came running scrambling up the steps. "Lord Jaisus, where will a fellow hide?" to which Mrs. Cassady replied by pushing him heels over head down the steps. "Go fight like a man."



Poor old Mrs. Stevens wrung her hands "oh my poor Hans, oh my poor Hinery". Presently the dreaded Indians appeared in twos and threes. Mr. Lawrence offered his hand which was accepted but another came up and caught him by his neckcloth, Corporal Smith, a militia man, took out a cartridge, when another Indian shot our defender through the back. Another advanced with his tomahawk, when courageous Mrs. Cassady rushed forward and knocked it away exclaiming "Don't murder the man in the house," and he was led away a prisoner. Mother had before this, thrust us four little ones into a pot hole under the stairs and now stood with her back to the door and her face to the Indians like a bear at bay. They passed through the house upstairs and down. We never knew whether they were British Indians, or not, but some thought they had quarrelled with the soldiers and were out to do mischief. A son of the house, George Lawrence, in the militia, was that day brought in wounded in the thigh in a skirmish. The Lawrences now retired farther back and we started through the Black Swamp, walking to the Ten Mile Creek, where we found shelter in a small log house."

P. McDonough, letters from Fort George, 1813, Newark, May 30th. "We are at last in Canada. The enemy met us on the shore and made an obstinate resistance of fifteen minutes. This is a delightful place, the people evacuated but are returning daily.

Aug. 4th. We still remain here doing nothing. If things go on no better than they are doing I shall be ashamed to return to Philadelphia next winter. War characters must rank low there.

Aug. 9th. I was out all afternoon and had a few shots at the Indians. Ours are coming over tomorrow about 400 or 500.

Oct. 8th. The Militia and Indians had a desperate engagement with a party of the British on the 6th for about two hours and a half fought at such a distance that four were killed. We can attempt nothing, Col. Scott's positive orders are not to suffer himself to be drawn out of the Fort on any terms whatever or to permit an officer to leave it."

Letter of General Drummond to Loyal and Patriotic Society, Jan. 1st, 1815. "When shortly after being appointed to the command of the Province, on visiting the Niagara frontier I was shocked beyond measure at beholding the desolation that had been spread on the once flourishing village of Niagara. As the principal sharer in the immense stores that had been captured in the important fortress in Niagara I beg to subscribe my portion of the prize money towards relieving

the distress of those persons who inhabited the late village of Niagara and vicinity." The letter contained £360, being £200 the amount of the annual subscription and one hundred and sixty pounds being his proportion of his share for first division of Niagara Fort prize money. "The Lieut.-Gen. regrets that this latter sum should have fallen so far short of his expectations but he trusts the next dividend will afford him a share worth the acceptance of the Society for their truly laudable and benevolent purposes."

Dr. Mann wrote of his medical and surgical experiences in the American army. He says that after Niagara was taken 27th May, nearly 400 killed or wounded lay on the ground in a space 200 yds. by 15 showing how sternly contested was the battle. In the summer the sickness among the soldiers was alarming. At Fort George and near it of 5000 men, more than one third were on the sick list from effluvia from sinks. When 700 men were in hospital there were only three surgeons fit for duty. During June it rained almost incessantly, July and August were very hot, the enemy near, skirmish almost daily. In October and November rain, diseases were typhus, diarrhoea, dysentery, many died from diarrhoea, being stopped with acetate of lead which brought other dreadful diseases. A flying hospital was established at Lewiston.

The statement of Mrs. Henry serving out refreshments to our soldiers on the day of the battle has been already given.

In a letter from Alexander Hamilton, afterwards Sheriff Hamilton written to Edinburgh and dated St. Davids, July 4th are a few references to the state of affairs then and to familiar names. After giving a sketch of the battles of Detroit, Queenston, Ft. George, Stoney Creek, Beaver Dams, He says,

"The Americans upon taking possession of Niagara allowed the inhabitants to remain in quiet possession of their homes and property but since their last adverse fortune they have taken up almost every gentleman of respectability and sent them over the river as prisoners of war. You will be sorry to hear Mr. Wm. Dickson is among the number. Mr. T. Dickson had to make his escape in the night, John Robertson, you will be glad to hear, has behaved himself with great propriety and approved himself a most gallant soldier, his wife and daughter are both well. Robert went up last winter with Mr. Robert Dickson to bring down for our support the Northwestern Indians and is expected back every day. George and myself are attached to Col de Haren, of the 104th Regt. from our knowledge of the country and roads to assist him. James is attached as a Lieut. to the Incorporated Militia. It is with the utmost pleasure I say that although one or other

of us, sometimes two or three together have been in almost every action yet that not one of your friends has been hurt. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. William and Thomas Dickson are all well. We are still determined that although the force of the enemy is still greatly superior to ours, to make one gallant attempt to drive them from our shores, trusting to that divine providence which has hitherto, so strongly upheld us, we have no fears.

In the Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada and Montreal a very rare book published 1817, are many references to help given to inhabitants many of them wealthy but left destitute. Large sums were subscribed in Nova Scotia, Jamaica, London, Montreal, England. One tenth of income of subscribers was given, Militia of York gave one day's pay. Rev. R. Addison and Rev. Dr. Strachan gave their services in distributing. Dr. Muirhead was very active in assisting the distressed and though he lost almost all at the burning, would take nothing from the society for his medical services to the poor. Widow Secord faithfully distributed £110 to sufferers at St. Davids. Rev. Dr. Burns distributed at Stamford, Mr. Geo. Ball distributed at 20 Mile Creek, Thos. Dickson also.

A letter from Gen. Drummond 14th Mar. 1814, tells of the distress of the family of Mr. Clench, whose home, the only one remaining was burnt down accidentally on the 14th inst. with furniture, bedding, clothes, leaving utterly destitute two families, Mrs. Steward and Mrs. Clench composed of 18 children, mostly females, Mr. Clench being a prisoner.

Mr. Symington's family is referred to as being driven out, property destroyed, while he, a gentleman of great worth and respectability and wealth, had been taken prisoner at Niagara after he and others had been permitted to take care of their families.

Mr. S. Winterbottom is spoken of as very deserving reduced by his loyalty as the enemy made a point of distressing all loyal inhabitants.

The names are mentioned of those having suffered of Mrs. Hanna Frey, Mr. Jas. Secord, Capt. David Secord, Mrs. Heward a widow and a teacher lost employment by the war, Widow Myers and her son John Ray a teacher.

Mr. Heron frequently gave to the poor, living in root houses, and cellars and under a few boards leaning upon chimneys still standing, and was allowed £10 to defray what he had thus given.

There is a list given of houses burned in the town and near it, and the supposed value. It was only after many years

that a part of this was received and paid in instalments. The Government resisted the claim of St. Andrew's church as the steeple had been used to take observations of the enemy and thus they said it was used for military purposes, but eventually £400 was allowed. St. Mark's had of course been used as a military hospital after the battle of Queenston Heights and afterwards as a commissariat. The money to restore it was given by the king and the S.P.G.

The following list gives an idea of the people of the town and their losses. The first twelve and a few others lived on the outskirts. Descendants of perhaps a dozen of those mentioned are still found living here but of many the name is forgotten.

Isaac Swayze house & barn	£ 200	Dr. Holmes, house	£ 100
Wm. Dickson, brick house	1000	Dr. Kerr, house & stable	650
M. McLellan, house & stable	100	Mrs. E. Thompson, 2 houses	500
M. Bellinger, barn	125	A. McKee, 2 houses	600
Castel Chorus, barn	125	Mrs. Forsyth, house, etc	1250
T. Butler, house, stable, barn	200	G. Slingerland	200
J. Butler, house, stable, barn	350	J. Eggleston, 3 houses	750
J. Secord, house, stable, barn	1200	T. Powis, 2 houses	1250
P. Ball, stable, barn	800	Dr. Muirhead	500
J. Ball, stable barn	1000	Mrs. Stewart	500
J. Crooks, stable barn	625	McKean & McEwan	1000
G. Lawe, stable barn	200	A. Heron	700
T. Merritt, stable barn	400	W. Dorman, etc	150
Rev. Mr. Burns, house	60	A. Rogers	400
J. McKay, barn	60	S. Bunting	100
J. Symington, house, etc	400	Children of J. Kelly	150
J. Clark, house	400	P. De Jordan	100
R. Clench, house & stable	150	Mrs. Rose Fields	750
J. McFarlane, house etc	100	S. Cassady	150
C. Gesseau, two houses	400	J. Monroe	200
D. Secord, house of John	200	E. Vanderlip	1000
Mrs. Wright	150	Mrs. Hill	500
Estate of Fitzgerald	100	A. Garner	450
J. Grier	750	Major Campbell's Estate	350
J. Young	1000	F. Waddell, Estate	350
J. Crooks	1000	J. Clark, Estate	200
W. Dickson	1000	Col. Claus	1000
Estate of J. Emery	1000	J. Powell	300
J. Edwards	500	Mrs. McBride	300
Mrs. Bradshaw	160	J. Adlem	25
J. Rogers	250	Estate of J. Jones	75
Mrs. Frey	300	Joined the Enemy	
J. Saunders	100	W. W.	250
J.	50	J. Wagstaff	250
Estate of D. Phelps	100	J. Doty	375
Colonel P	600	P. Howell	500
Estate of C. McNabb	50	S. Thompson	750

In Niagara 80 houses, barns, stables, etc.

Letters of Col. Wm. Claus 1818-1820 12th Jan. 1818.  
 "My Lord. Anxious that something should be done towards



rebuilding our church, which in the winter of 1813 was destroyed by the enemy at the time our town was burnt, I take the liberty of addressing myself to your Lordship, a freedom I would not presume upon if there appeared the most distant prospect or steps taken to make it even in a state that we could attend divine service, but during this season it is hardly possible to attend. It remains in the state the commissariat put it in for the purpose of storing provisions in after we repossessed ourselves of the frontier, with the trifling addition of a reading desk and gallery for the troops. I therefore pray the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel would give us aid. The church was made use of in 1812 as a hospital for the wounded soldiers and in 1814-15 as a provision store. Our situation is widely different from the rest of the province, we were deprived of our all and have barely the means of even getting covering for ourselves and families to which cause must be attributed the melancholy state the church remains in."

20th Sept., 1820. To Hon. and Rev. Dr. Stewart,\*\*\*\*  
 Previous to the war of 1812 the small congregation of Niagara erected at their own expense, a church which cost them nearly £1200 cy. \* \* \* \* In 1816 application was made to His Majesty's government for aid when His Majesty was graciously pleased to order £500 stg. which has been received and applied but falls far short of our wishes, notwithstanding we are keeping the work going on. Our congregations are too poor to expect much from them, from living within gunshot of the enemy they suffered the loss of all they possessed, burnt out and plundered of everything, they have really not yet recovered their misfortunes from the late unhappy war."

## References to Niagara in Early Books of Travel, Diaries, etc.

General Lee, papers 1759 (Although Niagara here means Fort Niagara as often in early dates, the glowing description is really that of the vicinity of the Fort just taken from the French and become a British possession ).

"Niagara, Aug. 9th, 1759. The situation of this place and of the country around it is certainly magnificent. It stands on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the river, 18 miles from the Great Falls, the most stupendous cataract in the world. Had I a throat of brass and a thousand tongues I might attempt to describe it but without them it certainly beggars all description. The country resembles Eekworth Park, if not surpasses it. For an immense space around it is filled with deer, bears, turkeys, raccoons, in short all game. The lake affords salmon and other excellent fish. But I am afraid you will think I am growing romantic therefore I shall only say it is such a paradise and such an acquisition to our nation that I would not sacrifice it to redeem the dominions of any one Electoral province of Germany from the hands of the enemy."

Gilbert Family Captivity 1780 to 1782. This is a most remarkable story of the capture of fifteen persons of ages from one year to 69 by Indians who had fled at the approach of Sullivan's army. Notwithstanding the hardships they endured during the two years of their wanderings they all with the exception of the father who had died from hardships, reached home after their adventures, they had been separated some had run the gauntlet, others were painted black for death, but were finally adopted into Indian families and at last purchased and sent home by way of Montreal by the British Government. The story is a long one; they seem to have kept some sort of diary, but only that part relating to Niagara is given.

Abner Gilbert was with Elizabeth Gilbert with a party of Indians near the Falls; they came down to the river to get provisions at Butlersburg, (Niagara), a small village built by

Col. Butler on the opposite side of the river to Fort Niagara\*\*\*\* They went to the house of an Englishman, one John Secord, who was styled brother to the chief, having lived with him some time before Elizabeth was left here and in July 1781, Col. Butler at Butlersburg tried to free Abner who now found his sister Elizabeth and stayed two weeks in the house of John Secord and drew clothing from the King's stores, Elizabeth was very comfortable here. She with John Secord's wife went to see the child of Elizabeth Peart, over a year old with the Indians. Capt. Fry's wife purchased it for thirteen dollars. Elizabeth Gilbert lived more than a year in J. Secord's family and became fondly attached to them, calling the mistress of the house her mamma. J. Secord took her one day to Fort Niagara, where she met six of her relations. Col. Butler and John Secord procured her release from the Indian, who claimed her, by presents. She then stayed two weeks more at Butlersburg with the Secord family. Rebecca and Benjamin Gilbert were sent to Five Mile Meadow, the Seneca King's daughter took them to a hut, where her father Siangorachti, his queen, and the family were, eleven in all. After three days they went to the landing on the Niagara river; later they had chill and fever for three months, cured by a decoction of herbs. A. Captain Latteridge tried to procure their freedom, Gen. Haldimand at Quebec sent orders for liberty to be given to their captives, at the Council Fire, and their freedom was given.

Pigeons were procured by falling trees with nests, dried them in the sun and with smoke. On 30th June, 1782, part of the family sailed for Montreal, and Crown Point was reached and home Sept., 1782.

Mrs. Simcoe, wife of Col. J. G. Simcoe, first Lieut.-Gov. of Upper Canada.

"July 26th, 1792. Navy Hall, built for Naval Commanders when here, is now undergoing a thorough repair for our occupation but is still so unfinished that the Governor ordered three marquees to be pitched on the hill above the house, which is very dry ground and rises beautifully in parts covered with oak bushes. A fine turf leads on to woods through which runs a good road to the Falls. The side of the hill is terminated by a steep bank covered with wood a hundred feet in height in some places, at the bottom of which runs the Niagara river.

July 30th. — We visited the Falls, stopped and breakfasted at Mr. Hamilton's, a merchant, who lives two miles from the landing. Mr. Hamilton has a very good stone house, the back rooms looking on the river. A gallery, the length of



**Hon. Robert Hamilton**

Died 1802. Called the Founder of Queenston.

See page 38.



the house, is a delightful covered walk, both below and above in all weather.

July 29th, 1792.—There is no church here, but a room has been built for a Mason's Hall, met for service in Free Mason's Lodge, where Divine Service is performed on Sunday.

June 6th, 1793.—Levee at Navy Hall, King's Birthday, ball, dancing from 7 to 11, supper, handsome ladies, 60 gentlemen present.

Aug. 24th, 1795.—We set out today for the Falls, Mr. Pilkington had been desired to put one or two short ladders to make the descent easy from rock to rock by the side of the Indian ladder, (a notched tree).

May 15th, 1796.—Whitsunday: Col. Butler buried today."

Wm. Jarvis, Secretary to Gov. Simcoe, writes 1792.—"I was ten days in search of a hut to place my wife and lambs in. I was obliged to pay £140 for a log hut with three rooms with half an acre of ground. I have purchased logs to make an addition of one decent room to it. No one is exempt from fever and ague." In 1793 he describes the provisions laid in for the winter. "I have a yoke of fattened oxen to come down, 12 small shoats, about 60 dunghill fowl, 16 fine turkeys, and a dozen ducks, two sows, a milch cow. In the root house I have 400 head of good cabbages, 60 bushels potatoes, 3 barrels wine, 2 of cider, 2 of apples, and a good stock of butter, my cockloft contains 150 lbs. of the finest maple sugar, also plenty of good flour, cheese, coffee, loaf sugar. In the stable I have the ponies and a good sleigh, and I have the snuggest and warmest cottage in the province."

Mrs. Jarvis writes: "The Four Mile Creek would be a place worthy of the King's notice; it meanders in a manner superior to any stream I ever saw. There is a great mill upon it and the family are dutch. We have received much attention from them, Mrs. Servos sent me lard, pumpkins, sausages, Indian meal, squashes, carrots, etc."

Capt. Alexander Campbell, 42nd Regt., 1791-2.—"There was only one public house. Near the fort saw 1000 mostly whitefish caught in a seine net; sometimes 6000 are caught in one day, fishing is from October to May; the troops and inhabitants have stated days. The town is laid out one half acre to each house, eight acres at a distance and a large common for the use of the town." He went from Niagara to Grand River, "called at Major Ten Broek's. Dined at Squire McNab's, who is J. P. with Johnson Butler called on Col. Butler, (his father), next to Capt. Clench's on Mississagua

Point, opposite Fort Niagara." Thanks are expressed for kindness shown by Messrs. McNab, Hamilton, Dickson, (merchant), Crooks, Kerr, Forsyth, Clark, (storekeeper), Johnson, Clench, Capt. Law, Alex. McNab. "I cannot particularize the hospitality I received and how many happy nights I spent at Niagara at assemblies, entertainments, card parties, also to the officers of the 26th Regt., and others."

Letter from New York to friend in England, Nov. 1794, printed in Philadelphia 1795.

"From Oswego vessels sail to Niagara, but settlers more frequently sail in open boats along south shore, 120 miles, I went with a schooner of 100 tons burden from Kingston to Niagara, three days out of sight of land though the passage is made in twenty hours. We enter the Niagara River between the fort and the town called Newark, with a beautiful prospect of both, the fort is on the east side, a regular fortification and well garrisoned. The mouth of the river affords a safe and copious harbour, sufficiently large for half the British navy. The town of Newark is situated in 43 degrees north latitude, extending about a mile, enjoying the fresh breezes from this little sea, plentifully supplied with fish at all seasons. In winter are caught with seines whitefish, from two to six lbs. weight, sturgeon, bass, salmon, in the creeks around the lake. They are not only a luxury but a great assistance to new beginners in supporting their families, many laying in a half dozen barrels for winter use.

The Surveyor General, a gentleman of liberal education and indefatigable in the duties of his office gave much correct information. The farmer can cut timber to fence his fields, and girdle the remainder, put in the harrow, only in some places is it necessary to use the plough till the second or third crop, the trees are beautiful white pine, oak, walnut, sugar maple, beech, hickory, and basswood. At Newark reside many gentlemen, who form a very intelligent and agreeable society.

At the lower landing, Queenston, the vessels discharge their cargo, and take on furs from 300 to 1500 miles back. I have seen four vessels of 60 or 100 tons, unloading at once and 60 wagons loaded in a day for the upper landing or Chippawa Creek. This portage is a source of wealth to the farmers, who carry from 20 to 30 hundred weight at 1s 8d, N.Y. cy per hundred weight, and load back with furs, transfer to batteaux at Fort Erie and then shipped in vessels for Detroit, etc.

Weekly Courts of request are held through the province for all debts under half a Joe. District courts every three

months, and an annual circuit before Chief Justice and two associate judges."

Duke de Rochefoucault Liancourt 1795-7.—"I made a long stay of eighteen days, from June 23rd to July 10th, waiting permission from Lord Dorchester to visit Quebec, as foreigners were forbidden from the conduct of some Frenchmen.

There were in Newark one hundred houses, the house of Col. Smith, Lt.-Col. in the 5th Regt. is much distinguished from the rest; it is constructed, embellished and painted in the best style, the yard, garden and court surrounded with railings as in England, a large garden like a French kitchen garden, is in good order, laborers are paid at a dollar a day, but he finds in his regiment as many as he chooses at 9 pence sterling a day, he is clearing 5000 acres and has the use of thirty, which belong to the king situate in front of him.

The Legislature opened with two members instead of seven, five of Assembly instead of fifteen, but as the time was almost expired the governor may prorogue from day to day, hoping that vessels may bring members. His retinue was fifty men from the fort. Dressed in silk he entered the hall.

Simcoe's guard was four soldiers, who came every day from the fort. No church has yet been built in Newark. Mr. Hamilton, an opulent merchant, concerned in the inland trade, has a farm, a distillery and a tanpit yard. I helped one day at fishing with the soldiers, net 100 ft. long, four ft. deep, caught 500 fish, sturgeons, pikes, sunfish, salmon, trout, herring. Mr. Littlehales was very kind. Simcoe's intimates were Mr. Pilkington and Major Seward."

He describes Simcoe's residence as a miserable low building.

I. Weld Travels in 1797.—"At Niagara we were landed at Mississauga Point, an agreeable walk of a mile to the town, many Indians present, 70 houses, Court House, Jail and a building intended for Legislative bodies. Called at four taverns before we got accommodation, as the people were suffering from ague, not a house in town exempt, and nearly all at Fort Niagara. On the margin of the river, three quarters of a mile from the town stands Navy Hall, opposite it a spacious wharf, adjoining it extensive stores belonging to the crown and private persons. Navy Hall is now occupied by troops as Fort Niagara has been given up. A block house is to be erected on the top of the banks for the soldiers to be finished in a few months. At Fort Niagara there are only fifty men and four small field pieces. The stone fort is ten yards from the lake, but when first built there was an extensive garden between it and the lake. The new block house at Fort

George is nine feet higher than the top of the stone house at Fort Niagara and commands every part of the fort. It is proposed to erect a fort at Mississagua Point, a still better situation than the block house. At the Falls are several ladders, one below the other, a long pine tree with notches in the sides, vibrates as you step. Mrs. Simcoe's ladder is farther down, is strong and firmly placed, large masses of earth and stone and ladders placed from one break to another.

John Maude, 1800. — "Arrived at Queenston, Fairbank's Tavern. Fourteen teams were at the wharf, teams drawn by two yokes of oxen, peltries or bales, waiting to be loaded, also three schooners. A miserable dinner, sent my introduction to Col. Hamilton, which procured me an invitation to supper; the goodness of my supper made up for the badness of my dinner.

Aug. 27th, At West Niagara, late Newark. Had embarked at 8.30 a.m., on board the Schooner, Gov. Simcoe, of 90 tons, commanded by Capt. Sampson, pretty good accommodation. Capt. and Mrs. Claus on board, reached West Niagara at 10 a.m. The situation is pretty, the fort new and remarkably neat, built on the edge of a handsome green or common, skirted by a few tolerable houses. The Garrison consisted of the Queen's Rangers and Canadian Volunteers. Although a warm day the officers were playing fives. They were on good terms with the American officers. Major Rivardi was the American Commander. He dined on shore, and although the tavern was a very bad one we had a tolerable dinner."

Thos. Moore, 1804. — In a letter the poet says: "To Col. Brock of the 49th who commanded at Fort George and to the officers I am particularly indebted for much kindness during the fortnight I remained at Niagara. Among the many pleasant days which I spent with him and his brother officers that of our visit to the Tuscarora Indians was not the least interesting. They received us in all their ancient custom, the younger men exhibited for our amusement in the race, the bat game, etc., while the old men and the women sat in groups under the surrounding trees and the picture altogether was beautiful as it was new to me."

C. F. Volney, (French), 1804, but travelled in 1797, speaks of ladders at the Falls as others, but gives position as 1,200 yards below Table Rock.

D'Arcy Boulton, 1805, Niagara is a handsome town of about a mile square, its street at right angles (seems to quote from letter of 1794 about fish). The climate is remarkably fine, 60 wagons loaded every day from Queenston to Chippawa.



John Mellish, 1806 to 1811. "I came down on opposite side of the river, the wind was blowing so that I could not cross to Newark. It contains about 500 inhabitants with many handsome buildings of brick and stone, two churches and a jail, an academy, six taverns, about twenty dry goods stores where every article may be procured on as good terms as at Montreal. The fort is garrisoned by 500 men of the 41st Regiment and the remainder of the Regt. is along the banks of the lake. Queenston has 300 people and six stores."

Heriot, 1806. "On the western bank a mile higher up than Fort Niagara the British fort is situated on ground higher than the last, constructed of cedar, pickets and earth, buildings on it of much neatness. On the bank of the river and beneath the fort are several buildings of store house and barracks one of which is called Navy Hall, contiguous to a wharf. A swamp in the vicinity from stagnated vapors is prejudicial to health of residents and troops in garrison. A plain intervenes of near a mile between the town and Fort George, houses of wood, neat and clean near 200, streets spacious and cut at right angles. On Mississagua Point on west side of the river, a lighthouse has lately been erected, while fish and black bass are caught near the point in great abundance." (An engraving of British Fort at Niagara taken from the east bank of the river shows flag on large buildings on heights of Fort George, several buildings at King's wharf, St. Mark's church is seen and a large building with flag staff near where present Court House stands, a building on the bank midway between Fort George and the town is supposed to have been the first Butler's barracks as here these buttons are found).

Christian Schultz writes from Fort Niagara 1807, says: "Newark makes a handsome appearance, has 200 houses, a convenient lighthouse below the town directly opposite the American Fort. The British Fort is a mile above the town, has a garrison of 200 men, the works are strong, they have opened two new embrasures, have a full band of musicians. Three British Schooners are lying at King's wharf. Youngstown, above Fort Niagara, has five or six houses, Queenston 100 houses and a garrison of 28 men."

Journal of Charles Prentiss, Oct. 1807. "Queenston is a pleasant village situated in a valley of good land, containing some very elegant storehouses. Here is a fortification and troops stationed. Rode to Newark and put up at Emmitta Hotel. The land is good and level and under improvement. The town on a pleasant plain contains an Episcopal church, Court House and Gaol and about a hundred and fifty good houses, called at a printing office where I got about thirty

newspapers, a present from the editor. The lighthouse two hundred rods from the town is lighted every night for the Shipping on lake Ontario. Fort George is a strong fortification about eighty rods from the town, store houses extend from the fort to the river. A large number of troops are stationed here and are under very strict discipline."

Michael Smith Hartford, 1813. "I was living in Upper Canada and writing a geographical description of it in 1812 when the war broke out, though many papers were lost I went to the States and published it there.

Niagara, a beautiful and prospective place of much trade inhabited by a civil and industrious people. Fort George is half a mile from the river 24 ft. above the water, nearly square, enclosing a space of 150 by 100 yards. The pickets are high and strong defended by a ditch on one side and breastwork on inside, well provided with cannon, ammunition, water, provisions, etc. There is a Council House, Court House, jail and two houses for public worship. There are several squares in the village adorned with almost every kind of precious fruit, the village on the east looks towards the fort over a beautiful plain of nearly one mile wide." He then goes on to contradict the scalping stories thus, "The Indians are forbidden by the British Government to cross lines, perhaps some of my readers may say I am a wretched tory and deserve to be hung for naming forbearance and humanity with the word British, after they had paid Indians for scalps of women and children. But I will tell you the truth although you may not believe it, which is that the Indians are not paid one cent for scalps, indeed, they have not taken any since the battle of Brownston, and every one they took they brought down to Fort George by my house. I asked the chief if Col. Claus or the Gov. gave them anything for them and they said not but some men would give them a dram for them. They told me none of the Indians took any scalps from women and children, but only from those killed in battle. When they took them to Fort George the Govt. and Col. Claus reproved them for their conduct and told them to take no more scalps. If they now take them it is against the knowledge or will of the British. It is entirely indifferent to me whether anyone believes these remarks or not, indeed I will not stand the truth of it, but it is the nearest or greatest evidence I could get on the subject."

Mr. Smith had moved to Canada, 1808. "There are three good schools in U.C., York, Quinte, Niagara village by Rev. J. Burns. There is a public free school in every district. During the war all the schools were closed and no preaching, no debts collected."

Mrs. Jenoway, 1814. The following letter gives the explanation of the earthworks back of Brock's monument, some asserting they were the works of Indians, others of the French, and still others that they were thrown up by the Americans. All these statements are here shown to be wrong and that the work was done by the British in 1814 and destroyed by them when the enemy under Gen. Brown was advancing previous to the Battle of Lundy's Lane. The date of Fort Mississagua is also fixed by this. Built by Lieut. Jenoway, of 1st Scots Royals. "Hope Cottage, Fort George, 14th Sept., 1814.

It is now five months since your brother was made assistant engineer of this place. I have now been with my husband for three months and am living in a cottage of his own building. I left York on the 6th of June to join my husband, who was at Queenston, having been ordered from Fort George to erect fortifications there. Five thousand of the enemy landed at Fort Erie. Mr. Jenoway was left to command at Queenston and the fortifications he had constructed, but as our army had to retire after a hard battle with only fifteen hundred British to oppose so many, consequently your brother had to blow up the batteries and go to Fort George with his men and guns. Previous to that I had to make my retreat with the children at nine o'clock at night. When four miles from Queenston six Indians rushed out of the bush and asked me for money, but when they found I was an officer's lady they went away. We went to the Twelve where we stayed three weeks. The Yankees were within four miles of us and when they retired my dear husband brought us to Fort George. He has now the entire command at Forts Mississagua and George of the Engineer Department. The former is a large new fort which he had the direction of at the commencement.

Your affectionate sister,

**Hannah Jenoway."**

Lieut. Francis Hall, 1816-7—"There is a newspaper printed at St. Davids. Fort Mississagua is star-shaped and intended to be faced with stone; to Fort George is a mile of flat ground occupied mostly by the village of Newark, which has in great part been rebuilt, houses of wood.

On Saturday, we were 49 in number and it was the anniversary of Detroit. The clergyman who was of the party made allusion to it next morning in the church."

Capt. R. Langslow, of East India Co.'s service, Journal, 1817. "Took the stage at the Falls for Newark, pouring rain, coach cover a farce, reached Fort George between 8 and 9 and went to the inn kept by A. Rogers, got tea very comfortably.

Talked with Major Davies of 99th at Fort George, Newark or West Niagara. Sept. 23. Dined with the mess of the 70th Regt. Port and claret in profusion. They live well and have a good mess. The Barracks(not the men's and officers') are infamous, left with Col. Evans between 10 and 11 and had a dreadful walk to the inn through water up to the knee, the rain poured all the time and nearly a mile to go. Wed., Sept. 24th took my leave of the friendly hospitable couple, Col. Evans from Staffordshire, Mrs. Evans, a very pleasant woman from Scotland, I suspect. Visited the works of Fort Mississagua opposite Fort Niagara, a strong little star fort with a block tower in the centre as the last hold after the American fashion. On my way to the mess visited Fort George. It has been curtailed one half. General Brock lies under the flagstaff in the highest bastion and I walked over the grave of this gallant soldier. Sept. 25th, took stage through Queens-ton, passed over the battle ground, saw remains of several small works and redoubts. A tall pole like a flagstaff erected on the spot where General Brock fell, about 300 yds. from the road to the right. A little further on is a block house and out-work, apparently newly erected 400 yds. on the right."

On reaching Fort Erie he was "petrified" to find he had left behind his Indian shawl and pocket thermometer and drove back all the way to Roger's inn and this gives a curious reference to the brother of Sir Walter Scott and the belief of some as to the authorship of these inimitable works. "Started at 1 p.m. and reached Niagara at 6 p.m. Thank my lucky stars I found my shawl and thermometer uninjured. The next day ate fine peaches at Col. Grant's garden, saw Capt. Vavásour. Sept. 30th, started back, plagued with the harness, got some string at Mr. Scott's, Paymaster of 70th, who lives three miles from Fort George, said to be the author of Guy Mannering, Waverly, disappointed in not seeing him. These novels are supposed to be sketched by Mr. and Mrs. Scott but finished for the press by their brother Walter, such is the opinion of the officers of the 70th."

Jno. M. Duncan Travels 1818, letter from Niagara. "It is intended to level the works of Fort George and erect a strong fort closer to the lake where there is already a small one called Fort Mississagua. Niagara has a Court House and Jail under the same roof, the Jail in the lower floor, the cells for criminals and debtors surround and open from the hall which leads to the Court room, and the guilty or unfortunate inmates are exposed to the gaze of those who enter. The partitions and doors are of strong pieces of oak bolted together, the doors about nine inches thick of two thicknesses of wood with sheet



iron between. Some of the debtor's rooms have a small window to the outside but the criminals have no light but have a small semi-circular opening in the door. The debtors have fire places but the others can only look out to a stove in the middle of the hall which can give no perceptible warmth. How dreadful to pass a Canadian winter in such a place. I did not spend a Sabbath in the town. A single church in town, a sabbath school is to be attempted.

Jno. Howison, 1818. "Population of Niagara 700 or 800, many merchants, a regular market, some pretty houses with several decent taverns. In winter there are public dancing assemblies, military races twice a year, two newspapers, Mr. Gourlay much discussed. Apple and peach orchards, the pigs eating the fruit on the ground. Major Norton has much influence with the Indians. He has married one of their women, speaks their language and lives among them."

Jas. Strachan, 1819. — "Niagara town is rising from its ashes with great rapidity. He draws a contrast between the church and the jail, the former entirely out of repair and most discreditable to the people, the latter the most splendid building in Upper Canada. No stone or memorial to mark the burial place of General Brock under one of the bastions of Fort George." He wrote the sonnet following sometimes attributed to his brother Bishop Strachan.

Why calls the bastion forth the patriot's sigh ?  
And starts the tear from beauty's swelling eye ?  
Within its breach intrepid Brock is laid  
A tomb according with the mighty dead,  
Whose soul devoted to his country's cause  
In deeds of glory sought his first applause.  
Enrolled with Abercromby, Wolfe and Moore  
No lapse of time his merits shall obscure,  
Fresh shall they burn in each Canadian heart,  
And all their pure and living fires impart,  
A youthful friend rests by the hero's side  
Their mutual love death sought not to divide,  
The muse that gives her Brock to deathless fame,  
Shall in the wreath entwine McDonnell's name.

Diary of John Goldie, 1819, published by his grandson, Dr. J. C. Cavan. "On June 4th, 1818, started to walk to examine the botanical productions of U.S. and Canada near the lakes from Montreal through Glengarry. Reached York 6th July. Instead of sailing by Frontenac to Niagara we went round by land. Thermometer 90 degrees at Stony Creek. On July 10th reached Niagara. Well laid out streets but not filled with houses, 300 of 68th Regiment here. The only building worthy of particular notice is the jail just out of town. It is a large two storey brick building, very handsome

and is considered to be the finest building in Canada. At present it holds within its walls the celebrated Gourlay. The Niagara Newspapers are full of his writings and those of his opponents. I read one of his papers and cannot think that he is so dangerous a character as the men in power would make people believe. I suspect his greatest fault is in speaking too many truths. Thermometer 94 degrees. On the 11th I went to the Falls and on the road saw fruit trees, cherries and peaches, have seen and eaten more cherries than I have ever done before. At Queenston saw the spot where Brock fell near the road and marked by a number of old thorn trees in a rude circle. At the Falls a ladder of 28 steps from an arbor vitae tree."

The botanical specimens obtained with such labor were sent to Scotland at different times and strange to say three times the same thing occurred. They were lost either by shipwreck or otherwise.

Adam Hodgson, letter from North America, 1819-1820. This traveller seems to have been in bad humor on his visit to Niagara. "I found at the village of Niagara about 400 British soldiers in a miserable fortress, mouldering in decay, with little appearance of discipline or respectability. This was the more mortifying to my English feelings as within gunshot the American flag was flying on the old French fort in excellent repair and of far more formidable aspect, although the garrison contained little more than 120 men. These, however, were kept employed while the British were allowed to be idle if they chose, although they might occasionally work for farmers in the neighborhood. They are allowed 14-2 gills of rum per day and can buy a gallon for a dollar. One effect of their indolence was perhaps visible in the humiliating spectacle of one of the men for some offence receiving 300 lashes a short time before as I was informed, in sight of the American Fort, and in presence of several American travellers, who exulted that this disgrace is banished from the army. I conversed some time with an Irish soldier who thought Niagara a fine situation from the cheapness of liquor. I sailed for York. We were becalmed in a miserable open boat and were out all night instead of taking four or five hours, embarked in the evening in a steamboat."

E. A. Talbot., 1824, Niagara had 100 houses, 558 inhabitants. Queenston, 60 houses, 300 people. In Niagara three churches, Episcopal, Presbyterian meeting house, Methodist chapel. He tells that Richard Talbot has taken out 24 families, 200 people in 1818, came by the Brunswick, the cabin for the use of the Talbot family and three other families. Met Col. Talbot in

York who had a grant of 100,000 acres, describes the Indian church in Brantford, settled near London, built a house 46 x 24 from 26th Oct. to Dec. 2nd.

Jas. Pickering, 1824-1828 was hired to Col. Talbot, visited Niagara several times, kept a diary, stayed over a year with Col. Talbot as his foreman. "At Ancaster are four brothers Crooks who own land, large stores and good taverns at Niagara, apples and peaches plenty. Flag on Sunday flying from Brock's monument, in December some apples still hanging from trees. Aug. 2nd At the mouth of the river dragging for the body of Morgan who was murdered in or near Niagara. The steamer Michigan in September was sent over the Falls with wild animals, 8,000 spectators. Fire seen from the lake supposed to be the lighthouse at Niagara but was the steamer Frontenac. At Niagara lately a soldier was hung for murdering his wife."

"Wonders of the West," first poem published in Upper Canada, 1825, by J. L. Alexander. Extracts interesting to us from referring to Niagara more than for their literary value.

## II.

The boat had stemmed Ontario's tide,  
And anchored on the southern side,  
A noble river with its waves  
Two rival nations' confines laves  
That giant stream which through the lakes  
Of Canada its circuit makes  
And issuing from Ontario,  
About two hundred miles below  
After so long a pilgrimage  
(Less holy name were sacrilege)  
Assumes St. Lawrence name of awe  
But here is called Niagara.

## III.

Upon the river's eastern side  
A fortress stands in warlike pride  
Ontario's surges lash its base  
And gradually its walls deface  
And from its topmost tower displayed  
A flag with stripes and stars portrayed  
Upon the west an ancient mound  
The Union Jack and British ground  
Nor distant far another stands  
Which the whole river's mouth commands.  
Between the two lay Newark village  
Which yet they let its neighbors pillage,  
Not only so but burn it down,  
And from its ashes now has grown,  
Another but more lovely far,  
Since the conclusion of the war  
Which they have named Niagara.

V.

Some gazed upon the fertile fields,  
The various fruits the orchard yields,  
Plum, cherry, apple, pear and peach  
And some the pendant branches reach,  
While some regard the distant shore,  
A British Colony no more,  
And blush for battles fought and won  
Between the mother and her son.

VII.

But now a chain of hills appear.  
A monument its summit bears,  
Whose tomb is that ? the stranger cried,  
Brock's monument, Wogee replied.

X.

Now with unwonted labor spent  
Behold them on the monument.  
\* \* \* \* \*

Despair had seized upon his brain,  
And from that tower's giddy height,  
He leaped, the bulwarks stopped his flight,  
And his now frantic sister's arm  
Preserved St. Julian from harm.  
\* \* \* \* \*

She grasped his hand and led him down,  
The winding staircase to the ground.

McTaggart Travels in 1826, speaks of Jacob's ladder, which hangs from the ledge of the Table Rock.

Fitzgerald de Roos, 1826—"At the Falls a circular kind of corkscrew ladder constructed round a mast descended to a path to the cataract."

Capt. Basil Hall, 1827, describes the Falls but not Niagara, but in 40 Etchings from sketches and Camera Lucida he has a view of Niagara River from Brock's Monument shewing the points, etc. Indians, houses placed on frames without foundations, one large room half furnished crowded with guests.

G. H. Hume, 1832.—"Niagara is not healthy, subject to lake fevers, inhabitants yellowish in color and are termed yellowheads, climate mild, all fruits are found here."

E. T. Coke, 1832.—"A subaltern's furlough. The batteries have been undermined by waves and have nearly disappeared. Fort George has some low wooden decayed barracks. Fort Mississagua in a still more mouldering state. I attended service in the Scotch and English Churches, the former had only been commenced a few months, the interior was yet in an unfinished state, but the congregation was large.



The 79th Highlanders in full costume, fine soldier like appearance."

Rev. Isaac Fidler, 1832—"Took coach for Youngstown from the Falls, crossed the river and heard a violent outcry from a boat in the middle of the river, pursued by another gaining on it from the American shore. The outcry was made by an Irish deserter from the Fort who had scarcely reached the Canadian boundary before his pursuers were upon him. His vociferations increased, and the Canadians flocking together from all quarters rushed into the water to save him. He declared he had been misused and his pursuers were threatened with being thrown into the water if they did not desist. I called on the missionary of Niagara who welcomed me in the true British spirit of Christian brotherhood. He is a sincerely pious man greatly esteemed and respected."

Thomas Fowler's Journal, 1832.

He gives the best description of the Hermit of the Falls, (page 221), also a description of the first Brock's monument. "The base is a lobby square in form. Above the base is a round pillar with a stair inside leading to a fine gallery which encircles the column a little below the top. At Niagara, Crysler's Hotel sent coach to the wharf for passengers without charge. Streets are at right angles with rows of poplars. On the south and west of the town is an extensive field of tableland, remarkable for its levelness and beauty occupied as a parade ground by troops of the garrison. About 9 in the evening had supper, charge three York shillings. There are four churches and the jail and court house of the county."

Ferguson, 1833. Niagara was not much alive, some morasses in the vicinity make it unhealthy. Had letters of introduction to Newark and Queenston but Mr. Hamilton would not let me go to any place but his house. At Crysler's hotel in Niagara was regaled on whitefish."

Radcliff's letters, 1833, to McGrath in Dublin—"At York Physicians are very much wanting here and apothecaries still more. Ignorant persons act in that capacity who scarcely know the names of the drugs they sell. At Niagara this most necessary branch is solely conducted by a female who compounds medicines and puddings with equal confidence but not with equal skill. It is extraordinary that there are few peaches at the north side or at either extremity of Lake Ontario, but such is their abundance on the south side that they are sold there for a shilling a bushel."

Capt. Hamilton Travels in 1834 "The 79th Regiment was at Fort George, Lord Durham said that the descendants of U. E. Loyalists were not so loyal as late settlers from Great

Britain." (Many who called themselves U. E. Loyalists were not so but came after Simcoe's offer of land).

John Galt, 1836. "Niagara has 1500 inhabitants, neat houses, numerous shops and taverns, two weekly newspapers and a weekly market. In the Canadas, 1832, there are interesting letters from emigrants laying stress on the fact that there are no game laws or lords over you, you can make your own soap, candles, sugar, treacle, vinegar."

Mrs. Jameson Summer, *Rambles and Winter Studies*, 1836-7.—Two visits to Niagara and the Falls are described, one a dark and gloomy one, the next roseate in hue. "Was welcomed by Irish friends, (The Alma family). The chief proprietor at the dock yards is a public spirited good natured gentleman. Capt. Melville, £20000 has been expended on the works, there are fifty workmen. A steamer was building, the brass work and casting is all of the first order. There are no booksellers but plenty of taverns, the fort dilapidated, our force there three privates and a corporal. Drove to Falls. Mr. A. a magistrate, pointed out a house where he had arrested a gang of forgers and coiners, returned at midnight in sleigh, intense cold, 29th January, did not speak a word on returning.

June, 1837.—Sir F. B. Head had received an address from 431 colored inhabitants of vicinity, mostly refugees from slavery.

In jail a wretched maniac in chains four years for murdering his wife was about to be hung. Heard the death bell pealing for a young man who died from habitual drinking. Visited a mulatto woman who had taken part in a fray when Moseby the black man escaped. The slave had escaped from Kentucky, was followed by his master, lodged in jail. Hundreds of blacks surrounded the jail to prevent his return to slavery. The mob was orderly, no firearms, one woman seized the sheriff, another held an artillery man to prevent his firing. In the scuffle Moseby escaped but two blacks were shot by the soldiers. My informant foremost in the fray, formerly a slave in Virginia, said "We thought we were safe here, but I'll go to the end of the world to be safe, I will, I will."

T. R. Preston, 1837-1839.—Speaks of Morrow or Moreau's execution the sheriff was within an ace of acting as hangman if he did not do so actually. Gives a list of the disposal of prisoners in Rebellion. Usher was murdered by Lett, who boasted of it.

Letter in United Service Journal signed Bungle, an officer of 43rd Regt. "Fort George in ruinous state encamped in green plains found a most civilized circle graced by several

fair ladies. At daylight struck our tents and went by steamer to Queenston, marched to the Falls. Thermometer 120 degrees, rich foliage of solemn forests, luxuriant crops of grain. Soon after Lord Durham, family and suite arrived. I suppose Niagara Falls never saw such a convocation of cocked hats as was on 17th July. His Excellency was met by Lord Colborne and Sir George Arthur with their staffs. A grand review and two hundred persons to dinner. Immense concourse chiefly Americans. One regiment Light Infantry 600 strong, one squad 1st Dragoon Guards, two guns three companies of 24th Regiment. A troop of Niagara Lancers, a most excellent and efficient corps."

Sir Jas. Alexander in L'Acadie, 1841—An officer in "visited Col. Talbot, Niagara, took part in a Court Martial at Niagara on an old officer who had left his post at Fort Mississauga for Buffalo with a woman of loose character found guilty and had to leave the service. Visited Fort Niagara, American officers very friendly, four came over and dined at Lieut. Moody's R.E."

Sir Richard Bonnycastle 1845,—Describes the ice jam at Queenston, ice piled thirty feet high and the wharf injured. A flag at Fort Mississauga on Sundays and holidays. At the races were many blacklegs and drunken vagabonds. Stopped at Howard's Hotel where coach started, monument of Brock rent from top to bottom.

De Vaux Guide, Buffalo, 1845—Brock was first interred at Fort George with a 24lb. American cannon captured at Detroit at his head. The monument on 17th April, 1840, partially destroyed, the circular stairs within were torn to pieces, stones thrown out of the wall and it was rent from top to bottom, a part fell in 1841.

W. H. Smith Gazetteer, 1848—"At Niagara the Gaol and Court House one mile southwest of the Town. A Harbor and Dock Co. employs from 150 to 350 hands. Vessels built here between 1832 and 1839, Steamboats, Traveller, Experiment, Queen, Gore. Schooners, Jesse Woods, Princess, Fanny, Toronto, Sovereign. Between 1839 and 1845, City of Toronto, Princess Royal, American, Chief Justice Robinson, Admiral, Eclipse, Minos, Emerald, London, Dart, Oak Gem, Shamrock, Ann, Propellers Adventure, Beagle, Traveller. Schooners, Wm. Cayley, Shannon, Clyde, Shamrock, and eighteen barges. There are 3 physicians, 9 lawyers, 32 stores, 3 booksellers, 2 chemists, 4 bakers, U. Canada Bank. The best taverns are Moffatt's and Howard's. Five churches, Engines and machinery of every perfect description, a marine railway for hauling up vessels of first class."

Silas Hopkins of Lewiston started from New Jersey in 1787, to help his father drive cattle to Niagara, they sold them to the garrison at Queenston and Niagara. "The next summer I went with my father to the residence of Col. Butler near Newark. He was then about 50 or 60, had a large, well cultivated farm was hospitable and agreeable. In 1789 the drovers gave a treat to the Indians at Lewiston, 200 gave a war dance. We had guests from Fort Niagara (officers). In 1790 I met T. Street, father of Samuel Street, of Chippawa. He asked me to go with him to Massachusetts, but I started without him. He followed and was robbed and murdered on the way.

Our cattle were ferried across in batteaux to Newark. In 1788 there was only an old ferry house and barracks of Butler's Rangers there, 500 or 600 Indians often encamped there, oxen were sold to Butler's Rangers for £50, cows for £20. In June I was at Fort Niagara at the celebration of King George's birthday. In 1788-90 eagles were plenty there. John Mountpleasant the son of Capt. Mountpleasant whose mother was an Oneida his sister became the wife of Capt. Chew. I remember Gov. Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers, they wore green uniform and their barracks was at Queenston, whence the name."

Wm. Jarvis, 1792, 25th Sept. One of the first burials recorded in St. Mark's register is that of a child aged four thus pathetically referred to in the diary of the Secretary of the Province. "The symptoms of his illness were so strange that his mother desired a post-mortem, as she says to satisfy me and be a guard for my other babes. His complaint was found to be in the windpipe and no where else, where neither art nor medicine could avail. The doctor called it a thick musilage or thick skin which surrounded the inside of the windpipe. The faculty who have written on the subject say none have survived this disorder and that it is very frequent in Scotland."

1812-13 Dr. Joseph West was Surgeon at Fort Niagara from 1805 to 1814. One of his daughters has given reminiscences of Fort Niagara. "How many associations crowd into my mind at mention of the name. Here I first drew my breath and passed my earliest years of childhood under the eye of a kind father who was taken from his young family by consumption caused by a severe cold caught in the damp dungeons of the old Mess House while attending the wounded and dying after the battle of Queenston. It was surrounded by strong pickets of plank on three sides. There was a yard 30 or 40 feet wide between the Mess House and the pickets and



a promenade beyond but the lake has made encroachments and the waves dash against the house. The English built the second storey. Many gay scenes I witnessed there, music, dancing. Then I looked back through the vista of years and fancied I heard the Indians war whoop, the gay chattering Frenchman then the proud Englishman in their glittering uniforms, they succeeded by our own brave army. There was constant interchange of civilities between the officers of Fort Niagara and Fort George and the inhabitants of the little town of Niagara. I well remember the Sunday previous to the declaration of war being at church at Niagara. General Brock accompanied us to the boat and took myself and sister in his arms, "I must bid good-bye to you, my little rosy cheeked Yankees", Then to my father "Farewell, Dr." Then I remember the commotion, preparing for war, repairs, etc., then the militia pouring in, the families of officers had to vacate their quarters, we were sent to the country and met on the way 100 Tuscorora Indians going to offer their services to Fort Niagara. We returned after four weeks to near the fort. One night we heard the voice of a British officer. "We do not war with women let us get some fowl and be off." We heard the explosion at York which jarred our house. The wounded and dying were brought over. Well do I remember walking with my father between rows of white tents, what scenes of sorrow and suffering I witnessed. General Dearborn and staff were quartered at our house once, as every available inch of ground was occupied at the fort, mattresses on the floor, tents in the yard. Our house was burned by the British after the taking of Fort Niagara."

# TREASURE AT FORT NIAGARA

By *Lieut.-Col. E. Cruikshank*

In 1789, when Lt. Colonel Peter Hunter, of the 60th Regiment, commanded at Niagara there came as a settler from the United States, a man with a large family professing to be Quakers. Jeremiah Moore also professed the craft of a white-smith. Immediately on his arrival at the Fort he waited upon the Commander and informed him that after the reduction of the French Garrison by Sir William Johnson, the French prisoners of war had been dispersed in the colonies, and that a sick soldier being unable to proceed was received in his father's house where he was hospitably entertained until his death. Shortly before that event the Frenchman gave them to understand that he was not ungrateful for the kindness he had experienced but that he had no means to mark his sense of it but a small folded paper in a little pocket book which might possibly turn out a prize to some of the children, in which hope he requested one to accept his pocket book.

It contained a folded paper on which was some writing in the French language understood by none of my father's family.

After the death and burial of the prisoner, occasion was sought to ascertain the purport of the paper writing and it was found to be a memorandum of the burial of the French military chest previous to the surrender of the Fort of Niagara. It stated that early in the day a fatigue party was ordered of which he was one, that it proceeded to the flag staff and opened the ground close to it, as deep as they could with their spades throw the earth clear of the pit or well, that the fort adjutant with the paymaster and commandant attended with a large iron chest which was carefully deposited in the bottom of the pit, before it was quite daylight. That as soon as it was left the party began to cover it with the earth and had perhaps filled up about three feet when a battery opened upon the fort and one of the first shot killed one of the laborers and precipitated the body into the pit about seven feet below the surface, that the officer would not wait to get out the body and urged the filling in and making the surface of the ground even. That the capitulation taking place that day the writer

supposed that the chest remained and that at the peace it might be a prize which would be well paid for.

Mr. Moore told Col. Hunter that although his father had not thought much of this memorandum yet it had frequently occurred to him and more frequently lately since the troubles when emigration to Canada had become very common. That his family having become very unpopular from services rendered to the King's troops and loyalists, their residence had become unpleasant, that he had brought them with him and now proposed to ascertain the truth of the memorandum in hopes that the Colonel would allow him a share of the prize.

That Colonel Hunter laughed at his credulity but said that he should have permission at his own charges to dig under the flagstaff as long as he pleased, that all he found should be his own, and upon this encouragement he, Moore, engaged a party and the next day was permitted to begin his labor in presence of a sergeant's party and some of the officers who attended from curiosity, especial Lieut. Humphries, the engineer. That when they got down about seven feet they discovered the skeleton of a man to the great astonishment of all present and most, though expected, to the engineer and Moore who alone knew what to anticipate from this circumstance. All was surprise and conjecture for a few moments when the sergeant proposed to raise the bones but the engineer opposed any movement until the commandant was apprised and his orders received. His orders were for Moore and his party to retire until the next day and a sentinel was left over the flagstaff. It snowed in the night and for several days, so that it was some time before Moore returned with his party to work, but the flag-staff had been removed to another part of the fort, and no trace could be found of where it had stood and permission was denied to make any further opening in the ground. Moore in relating this story affected to believe that the engineer was not so incredulous of the soldier's veracity as he pretended to be.

Mr. Moore always spoke in the highest terms of Col. Hunter as a humane and honorable man to whom the settlement at Niagara was chiefly indebted for its continued existence through a period of famine in which it could not have subsisted without aid from the military stores which this gentleman opened discreetly to save the settlers. The measure was hazardous as the troops on the upper waters and lakes depended on the stores of Niagara without any means of re-supply during the winter. He permitted rations of flour and pork to be issued to individuals in proportion as recommended

by two gentlemen of character in the settlement who became accountable to the Crown and individually creditors to the parties thus assisted. No transaction could be more creditable to the parties than this arrangement, Colonel Hunter risked a military censure for acting without orders on so serious a risque which was such that the commander-in-chief on rectifying (?) the act that he would not have assumed the responsibility of giving provisions, etc.

It is supposed that the Guarantees were never called upon by Government for repayment of the provisions so advanced, and a question has been mooted on that point how far a subsisting claim not likely to be enforced was authority to the guarantees to compel the individual payment of each barrel of flour and pork from the consumers to place in his pocket principal and interest of a charity which cost them nothing.

Jeremiah Moore has a very large family, and became largely a partaker of the King's stores under this guarantee which it is said finally consumed his little farm in principal and interest but nothing could affect his loyal gratitude for the original benefit.

Solomon Moore the son of Jeremiah inherited his father's talents and loyalty. He married and had a large family, being a man of some ingenuity he became a candidate with some others for the grant of a lot of land on which he had been some years living, supporting his large family by boiling salt. His pretensions had been favorably received by the Executive Government which had decided to grant to him the lot which he occupied, but the war and the removal of the Civil Lieut. Governor had delayed the patent when the aid-de-camp and private Secretary of a military successor discovered that the grant was incomplete not only for that but several adjacent lots which had been reserved as fuel to boil the salt, obtained a grant for Moore's lot among others. The military grantee was informed of the true state of Moore's petition still before the council and in a friendly manner urged to surrender his grant or make over the particular lot to Moore.

This was declined on the ground that his means of life were connected with this grant. The military administrator was then petitioned by Solomon Moore to revise the measure and that he might be heard against the grant to his aid-de-camp but the General would not receive or refer the petition notwithstanding the urgent representations at the Council board against the irregularity and impropriety of the grant.

This application to the Military Governor being rejected, Solomon Moore had no resource but to address the Secretary of State a humble petition for a hearing upon the facts stated.



The ready attention paid to this obscure individual by a command to the Executive Government to report all the circumstances of the case was the most grateful despatch to the poor colonist who found that justice was still open to him in the King's Court although closed in the Governor's.

The Executive Government did report the circumstances of the grant to the aid-de-camp in such plain terms as inclined the honorable feeling of the principal Secretary for War and the Colonies to address to the Government of Upper Canada the following expression of indignation which was communicated to the parties.

\* \* \* \* \*

When the peremptory letter was communicated there was serving in the province a young gentleman, brother to the under Secretary of State, who accompanied the grantee to visit his estate and is supposed to have represented that the case had been exaggerated beyond the true coloring, that it would never have reached England if the grantee had consented to yield his prize, not to the supposed sufferer, Mr. Solomon Moore, but to his advocate the member of the Executive Council who first used his personal influence with the grantee to that effect, and then made himself a party in the executive Council to influence the general officer who had bestowed this prize on his personal friend and who failing in his attempt induced Solomon Moore to pass by the local authorities and present his case to the highest power in a dress to excite attention. Something like this is supposed from an otherwise unaccountable change in the opinion and sentiments of the Secretary of State without any known or assigned cause at least none made known to the Colonial Government when it received instructions to forbear further interference in the transactions with Moore Plomerfeldt, etc.

Original in possession of George Murray Jarvis, Ottawa, Ont., in hand writing of Chief Justice Wm. Dummer Powell and endorsed

“Jeremiah Moore,  
French Military Chest,  
Lieut. Col. Hunter,  
Solomon Moore,  
Major Loring,  
M. Geul Gordon,  
Salt Springs.”

There was a well known salt spring in the Township of





Louth and I find that on 3d March, 1814, a grant of 700 acres was made to Robert R. Loring in that township. Loring was then A.D.C. and Mil-Secy. to Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond, Military Administrator of Upper Canada — E.C. The member of the Executive Council was probably Mr. Powell himself.







# MEETINGS

The Regular Meetings are on the second Monday of each month from October to May, except that the Annual Meeting is on the 13th of October.

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# PUBLICATIONS

Of many of our Publications the edition is exhausted, but we have

- 5 Reprinted, Sermon of Rev. R. Addison, Historic Houses, etc.
- 12 Battle of Fort George, republished from No. 1.
- 14 Letters of Mrs. Wm. Dummer Powell, 1807-1821.
- 15 Sir Isaac Brock, Count de Puisaye, republished.
- 17 Ten Years of the Colony of Niagara.
- 18 Early History of St. Mark's, Robert Gourlay, etc.
- 19 Inscriptions and Graves in the Niagara Peninsula. Price 40 cents No. 10, reprinted with additions.
- 20 Reminiscences of Fenian Raid, etc.
- 21 Historic Buildings, Churches, No. 7, reprinted with additions.
- 22 Some Graves in Lundy's Lane.
- 23 Fort Niagara, Col. MacDougal.
- 24 Catalogue.
- 25 Laura Secord, Diary of a Prisoner in Fort Garry, 1869-70.
- 26 Notes on District of Niagara, 1791-3.
- 27 Names Only But Much More, No. 1 Company, Niagara.

Our exchange List now numbers over fifty.

The Historical Room is open every Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5, in winter, and in summer also on Wednesday.

We have now a membership of two hundred and fifty.

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